

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

MARCH 12, 2015



Brevan Collins as Conrad Birdie.



Aidan White as Albert Peterson and Halle Kaufax as Rosie Alvarez

'Bye Bye Birdie' Opens Friday

The curtain rises Friday evening for the first performance of Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre's "Bye Bye Birdie". The show is staged in the auditorium of the Bryant Alternative High School at 2709 Popkins Lane. Showtimes are March 13, 14, 20 and 21 at 7:30 p.m. and March 15 and 22 at 3 p.m. For ticket information visit www.mvcct.org

PHOTOS BY
LAURA MARSHALL



Andie Matten as Kim MacAfee and Aidan Lansburgh as Hugo Peabody.



Andie Matten as Kim MacAfee and Brevan Collins as Conrad Birdie.

'How Can We Restore the Trust?'

Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability adds leaders.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

Michelle Evans, the new public affairs director for the Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability, explained to group members how important it is to like and share and Tweet stories online, related to their goal of increased transparency and accountability.

If they're not already on Twitter, "Find a 12-year-old, they'll set it up for you," she said.

Evans was introduced by the organization's executive director, Mount Vernon resident Nick Beltrante at a meeting on March 9 at the Martha Washington Library on Fort Hunt Road.

A WWII veteran and former police officer in Washington D.C., Beltrante was motivated to help found the coalition in spring 2010,

after a Fairfax County Police officer killed David Masters Nov. 13, 2009, and was cleared.

Beltrante referenced the Masters case, the 2006 killing of Salvatore "Sal" Culosi Jr in Fair Oaks and the 2013 killing of Springfield resident John Geer, reminding those in attendance that those men who were shot and killed by Fairfax County Police officers were unarmed.

Culosi's parents Anita and Salvatore attended the meeting.

"We're praying for them; we know how they're getting jerked around," Anita Culosi commented on the more than a year the Geer family was kept without much information from Fairfax County on the details of Geer's death. "We didn't squeak enough. We were told to be patient."

Salvatore Culosi added that he
SEE CITIZENS, PAGE 19

Telegraph Road Widening Completed

Improvements funded by county.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

Though the morning of the ribbon-cutting was damp and chilly, Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) said he was thankful the ceremony was scheduled for Wednesday rather than Thursday.

The March 4 event marking the completion of the county-funded Telegraph Road widening project took place in the new Huntley Meadows Park parking lot at 6901 South Kings Highway in Alexandria, 24 hours before a winter

storm dropped anywhere from 4-8 inches of snow around northern Virginia.

Prior to the widening, the intersections of South Van Dorn Street, Telegraph Road and South Kings Highway were among some of the worst bottlenecks in the county.

"This intersection has been a constant challenge for the commuters and park authority pedestrians," said McKay.

According to the county, the full complement of improvements includes widening Telegraph Road

SEE CELEBRATING, PAGE 18

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Old Town Alexandria \$479,900

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This crisp brick townhouse built in 1960 seamlessly blends with the neighboring historical homes and features a renovated

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Alexandria \$569,000

Charm, Character & Convenience. Fabulous four level townhome with garage. Hardwoods throughout, gourmet kitchen and soaring

20-foot ceiling in step-down living room from separate dining room, 3 bedrooms, 2.55 baths, new master bath. 3814 Woodlawn Court.

Suzanne Morrison 703.863.3110
Jeffery McGlothlin 703.798.0137
www.SuzanneMorrison.com

NEWS BRIEFS

Matthew Trial Date Postponed

At a March 4 hearing in Albemarle County Circuit Court, Judge Cheryl Higgins granted the man charged with abducting and murdering Hannah Graham a continuance. Higgins decided to give extra time for Matthew's defense to produce expert DNA testimony in the killing of the West Potomac alumna.

Matthew's trial was previously scheduled for June 29, 2015. A new date will be decided at a May 5 hearing.

On Sept. 30, 2014, Graham disappeared from the University of Virginia campus where she was a sophomore. After several weeks of searching, the Chesterfield County Sheriff's Department discovered human remains on Oct. 18 that were later confirmed as Graham's. In this trial Matthew will face first degree murder, abduction and reckless driving charges.

— TIM PETERSON

Storck Sets Meeting Hours

Fairfax County School Board Member Dan Storck will host Saturday Community Office Hours on:

❖ Saturday, March 14, at the Sherwood Regional Library, Conference Room 3, from 12:30-2:30 p.m.

❖ Saturday, March 14, at the Great Harvest Bread Company, 9000 Lorton Station Boulevard, Lorton, from 3:30-5 p.m.

Members of the community are invited to stop by to ask questions or to discuss concerns, no appointment necessary. Contact Storck at Dan.Storck@fcps.edu or his assistant Mary Ellen Hook at mehook@fcps.edu.

FIRE REPORTS

Smoking Materials Cause Fire

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department units responded to a house fire on Feb. 18, at approximately 8:30 p.m., in the Alexandria area of Fairfax County. The single-family home is located at 9005 Chickawane Court. Firefighters encountered smoke and fire coming from the front porch of the two-story home upon arrival. Firefighters quickly extinguished the fire. The damage was contained to the outside of the home. The occupants were not displaced. There were no injuries.

Damage is estimated at \$5,000. According to fire investigators, the fire was accidental. The cause of the fire was improper disposal of smoking materials on the porch.

Accidental Townhouse Fire

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department units responded to a townhouse fire on Feb. 16, at approximately 1:55 a.m., in the Alexandria area of Fairfax County. The townhouse is located at 5237 Pleasure Cove Court.

Firefighters encountered heavy fire coming from the deck and rear of the middle two-story townhouse upon arrival. Firefighters brought the fire under control in approximately 15 minutes. The fire also extended into the kitchen and a bedroom. Three adults and a dog were displaced. Red Cross support is being provided to the occupants. One adult female was transported with non-life threatening injuries.

Damage is estimated at \$50,000. According to fire investigators, the fire was accidental. Improperly discarded smoking materials into a plastic flower container caused the fire.

Accidental Apartment Fire

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department units responded to a garden apartment fire on Feb. 4, at approximately 11:25 p.m., in the Alexandria area of Fairfax County. The apartment is located at 3143 Southgate Drive.

Firefighters encountered heavy smoke coming from the rear of the three-story apartment upon arrival. Firefighters quickly extinguished the fire in a bedroom on the second floor. No one was home when the fire broke out. Two adults and two children have been displaced. Red Cross is supporting the displaced family. There were no injuries.

Damage is estimated at \$46,200. According to fire investigators, the fire was accidental. A hot iron left on ignited combustible materials

NEWS

MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE EDITOR STEVEN MAUREN
703-778-9415 OR GAZETTE@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



The 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grades at Mt. Vernon Woods sing the school song "Mt. Vernon Woods is the School for Me."



Deputy superintendent of Region 3 Deborah Tyler and executive principal for Region 3 Grace Taylor congratulate Mt. Vernon Woods principal Dr. Pamela Simpkins at the anniversary celebration last Wednesday afternoon at the school.

Mount Vernon Woods at 50

Mount Vernon Woods Elementary School celebrated its 50th anniversary on Wednesday afternoon, March 4.

The students were gathered in the gym for a special presentation by some of their teachers. Melissa Green recited a poem "Greatness Begins With You." Susan Crank and Dr. Lukisha Barrera Gibbs prepared a history of the school and the property the school sits on

going back to the time that it was owned by George Washington and called Muddy Hole Farm.

Music instructor Truman Hartzog led the children in the singing of the school song "Mt. Vernon Woods is the School for Me."

A slide show depicting the school through the years accompanied by music of the era was presented by Carolyn Hyman.



Melissa Green recites the poem "Greatness begins with You."



Playing the guitar Truman Hartzog leads the students in the singing of the Mt. Vernon Woods school song.

Democrats Hold Mardi Gras Straw Poll

Surovell, Sargeant lead.

As the saying goes: In Virginia, every year is an election year. And every election year is replete with straw polls. The first such event leading up to the June 9 Democratic primary was a Mardi Gras-themed dinner party held March 7 at Don Beyer Volvo in Alexandria.

Pre-voters chose from announced candidates for Mount Vernon District Supervisor and the 36th District State Senate seat.

At the end of the night, current Del. Scott Surovell (D-44) was the decisive winner in the senate race over his opponent, small businessman Mark Cannady. Surovell took 134 votes to Cannady's 87.

"This victory clearly shows that our community wants strong, progressive leadership that is going to shake things up in Richmond and fight for our area," Surovell said in a statement.

In the supervisor poll, Fairfax County planning commission member Tim Sargeant captured nearly half of the 227 votes (47.5 percent) over opponents Jack Dobbyn (27 percent) a Mount Vernon District appointee of Supervisor Gerry Hyland and co-chair the Board of Supervisors' and

School Board's joint working committee; Mount Vernon School Board representative Dan Storck (16 percent); and Lorton-based marketing research firm owner Candace Bennett (9 percent).

"For over 20 years, I have devoted myself to providing community leadership and public service to the Mount Vernon District and Fairfax County," said Sargeant in a statement. "Now I want to continue my service as the next Mount Vernon supervisor."

With two months still to go before the primary, Dobbyn made an undeterred, emphatic mission statement for "our turn" to move forward with the kind of redevelopment already taking place around the county.

"Now our sights are set on the June 9 primary. I believe in my forward-looking vision, and now must take that vision to the voters of Mt. Vernon," Dobbyn said.

Non-incumbent, non-contested Democratic candidates for state delegates Joana Garcia (42nd District) and Paul Krizek (44th District) and Fairfax County Mount Vernon School Board member Karen Corbett Sanders were scheduled to give short speeches as well.

— TIM PETERSON

Students Discuss Experiments at Science Fair



Megan Fuquay was awarded 2nd place in her category. She has an interest in solar energy, because it's a renewable resource. She tracked the efficiency of two solar cells, one fixed and one moveable. Although both cells had varied levels of output, throughout the day, Megan's conclusion was that the tracking cell was an average of four times more efficient than the fixed one.



Parents and students filled West Potomac High School's Auxiliary Gym for the annual Science Fair, held on Feb. 7.



Allison Bird explains her 1st place project to an interested visitor. She decided upon a project involving green roofing, because she is interested in environmental sustainability and saw this it as bringing the environment and economy together. In her experiment, the green roofing ended up being the more efficient insulator.




Christopher Jones with his 1st place science project. He is active in amateur rocketry and designed a multirotor to pick up a rocket's payload. The goal of the project was an easier delivery.






A closeup of Christopher Jones' Semi-Autonomous Payload Retrieval System. This project is among the winners headed to the Regional Science Fair.

PHOTOS BY
RENÉE RUGGLES
THE GAZETTE



*Keller Williams Realty Metro Center
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Linda Trinkle Wolf, of the Old Town Alexandria Keller Williams office, has been awarded the Institute's highest and most prestigious designation of "Million Dollar Guild*". This award is based on her outstanding performance in the Million-Dollar-Plus Luxury Home Market and in depth training necessary for certification by the Institute. Guild* members are part of an international network of real estate professionals. The Institute's Global Network System, provides access to the most discriminating international luxury buyers.

Linda is a member of the Keller Williams Luxury Homes Division, an exclusive group of real estate consultants who have raised the bar for service and expertise in the luxury home market. As a member of this division, Linda has the most current information, tools, international connections and marketing resources available to assist luxury home buyers and sellers. She is a lifetime member of Northern Virginia Board of Realtors Top Producers Club and Multi-Million Dollar Club and has been recognized by MRIS, Children's National Medical Center and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center for her philanthropic work for critically ill children.

If you are interested in learning more about Buying or Selling a luxury property, contact Linda.

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Telephone: 703-856-2133

607 South Washington Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

FEB. 1-APRIL 15

Free Tax Preparation. Monday-Saturday, 10:15 a.m.-2 p.m.; Monday-Thursday, 5-8 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. For taxpayers with low and middle income. All ages, with special attention to seniors. Federal and Virginia tax returns prepared and electronically filed by IRS-certified volunteers. Tax questions can be answered. Bring your photo ID(s), Social Security Card(s), tax documents, and your prior year tax return.

WEDNESDAYS/MARCH 11-25

Wednesday Lenten Program. 6:30-8:30 p.m. St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Join discussion on Praise and Thanksgiving Psalms as they differ from the Lament Psalm, and a presentation of the Alfred Street Baptist Church. Call 703-360-4220.

THURSDAY/MARCH 12

Business Breakfast. 8-9:30 a.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Meet the leadership of the new Wegmans Food Market opening in June at Hilltop Village Center. Mike Dempsey, store manager, and Matt Spath, service manager, will speak at the March Business Breakfast hosted by Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce. \$25 per person. Register at www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org or call 703-360-6925.

Tax Relief Workshop. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Franconia Governmental Center, 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Real estate tax relief is available for older adults and people with disabilities who meet certain qualifications; they may be eligible for car tax relief and tax relief for renters. Department of Tax Administration staff will be available to assist with filling out the application form and answer questions. No appointment necessary. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta, or call 703-971-6262 (TTY 711).

SATURDAY/MARCH 14

Community Dialogue. 10 a.m.-noon at South County Government Center, Room 221 or 8350 Richmond Highway or 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Room 9/10, 12000 Government Center Parkway. Small group discussions and brainstorming activities on the topic of the county budget. Call 703-704-6000 (South County) or 703-324-7329 (Fairfax County).

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 18

Coffee Social and Open House. 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria. Mount Vernon At Home will host a coffee social to share information about the Village movement, Aging in Place information and volunteer opportunities. RSVP at info@mountvernonathome.org or 703-303-4060.



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Parcel 2 (Mohammed N. Shirazi, et al.): 10503 West Drive #D, Fairfax; Fairfax Professional Village Condos.
Tax Map #: 57-4-20-4C

Parcel 3 (Mohammed N. Shirazi, et al.): 4242 Chain Bridge Road #C, Fairfax; Fairfax Professional Village Condos. Tax Map #: 57-4-20-6C

Parcel 4 (Mohammed N. Shirazi, et al.): 4242 Chain Bridge Road #D, Fairfax; Fairfax Professional Village Condos. Tax Map #: 57-4-20-7D

Parcel 5 (John Samuel Jackson, et al.): 6313 Old Dominion Drive, McLean; Chesterbrook; 0.438+/- Acre.
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Alex./Yacht Haven
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which overlooks unbelievable custom landscaped back yard. Walk to fantastic marina, clubhouse and pool. Two updated HVAC systems plus tankless HWH - the list goes on and on. Nothing better in all of Mt. Vernon!



Alex./Mt. Vee Manor
\$2,200
8276 Jake Place

Spectacular 3-level brick end unit with spacious entry level garage. This home is meticulously maintained and sparkles throughout. Freshly painted and new carpet going in this week on

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Alex./Mt. Vernon Manor
\$370,900
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Builders, Contractors: A Handyman Special! Come see this 3-level Colonial in prestigious Mount Vernon Manor. Great bones, lovely lot but needs a complete makeover. 4 BR, 2.5 BA, sunroom addition plus a small basement.

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Alex./Riverside Terrace
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Meticulously updated & maintained 3 BR/3 BA home. Remodeled kitchen, baths & refinished hwd floors. A lovely new deck is accessed from the kitchen & overlooks a beautiful, landscaped back yard. The lower lvl is finished to perfection w/an inviting family rm, wood-burning fpl, a

den w/a wet bar, & a bedrm w/a spectacular bath complete w/Jacuzzi tub, knotty pine closet & ceramic tile flr & walls. A large one-car garage also offers additional storage. This home is truly unique & special & only 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir.



Alex./Riverside Estates
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8505 Wagon Wheel Road

Beautiful 5/6 BR, 4 BA split on one of Riverside's largest lots. Welcome to a freshly painted interior & stunning, refinished hwd flrs. Replacement windows plus a nice addition which can serve as a formal & separate dining rm or an in-law-suite

complete w/a wheelchair-accessible bath & shower. A finished lower lvl offers 2 BRs, bath, large family rm w/wood-burning fpl & a large utility/laundry rm. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir (S) & 15 to Old Town (N). This a GREAT BUY!

For more information: www.RexReiley.com



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SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 13

Mount Vernon Author Pens 'Presidents in Crisis'

Michael Bohn applies his first-hand experience in the White House.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON
THE GAZETTE

The first time Mount Vernon author Michael K. Bohn put his pen to paper, it wasn't to draft one of his six books. It was not even to write an article for one of the many national newspapers that has published his byline. Bohn's writing career began in 1998, with a human interest piece for the Mount Vernon Gazette. Last week, Bohn celebrated the release of his sixth book, "Presidents in Crisis: Tough Decisions inside the White House from Truman to Obama."

Bohn's latest book chronicles 12 presidents — six Republican and six Democrat — and their different strategies to resolve transformative international events. "Presidents in Crisis" hit shelves on Feb. 10 and was published by Arcade Publications of New York City.

The idea for "Presidents in Crisis" arose from features Bohn wrote for McClatchy Newspapers about two major historical events the White House confronted — the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis and the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

"The book came from articles I had written for McClatchy newspapers," Bohn said. "I did a big, long piece for them on the Cuban Missile Crisis, and then I wrote one for the 10-year anniversary of 9/11. The stories were 3,000 word features, and I thought, 'why don't I write about a number of crises and see what lessons there are?'"

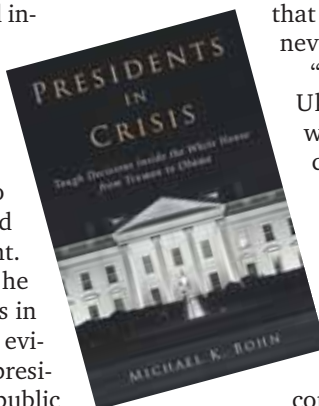
Bohn has written books about sports, history and politics — with varied yet specific



Michael K. Bohn as a White House social aide to President Nixon.

subjects including how golfers gamble on the green to a look inside the White House Situation Room. He said he has been able to leverage connections and insight gained from his 20-year military career in Naval Intelligence to write about such historical and political subjects.

For a non-fiction book to be compelling, Bohn said there has to be an argument. For his most recent book, he took 12 different presidents in times of turmoil and used evidence to conclude that a president can never satisfy the public when effectively addressing an international issue.



From Truman's handling of the Korean War to Obama's approach toward chemical weapons in Syria, Bohn demonstrated that the public has never and will never seem to approve.

"The book is topical because with Ukraine, ISIS, Ebola, nuclear weapons, you name it — it is a crisis today," Bohn said. "The people on the sidelines barking at President Obama have no idea how hard it is. They have never been in that situation. They have no skin in the game, so if their ideas are dumb, they don't pay the consequences."

Having directly served the president twice as a naval intelligence officer, Bohn has sat



Michael K. Bohn with President George H.W. Bush

in the White House Situation room. Most people will never have a front row seat to the Executive Branch's decision-making process, so Bohn gets readers as close as possible.

"Crisis management at the White House is like a sausage factory," Bohn said. "All you see is the sausage. This book takes you into the White House and you can see how the sausage is made."

While Bohn wrote for his military positions, he said he had never crafted any kind of story or narrative from beginning to end until his first local feature.

"I was a career naval officer, but I wanted to learn how to write," Bohn said. "I wrote a daily summary of world events for the President, but that didn't count."

SEE BOHN APPLIES, PAGE 18

Peter Mayer Enthralls at St. Aidan's

Also at Focus concert, Lea warms up the night.

BY ED SIMMONS, JR.
THE GAZETTE

The snow was still thick on the ground Saturday night, March 7, and temperatures were finally just beginning to warm, when the two folksingers Peter Mayer and Lea, like thawing springtime breezes, took their turns regaling the audience in the sanctuary at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church.

The event was another Focus Music Mount Vernon folk music concert, staffed by local volunteers led by venue manager Herb Cooper-Levy who mc'ed the show.

Lea was the first to step up on the improvised pine platform, guitar in hand. A veteran performer who has played before at St. Aidan's, she had initially planned to be in the audience when at

the last-minute she was called to fill-in for folk singer Doug Alan Wilcox who was detained by weather.

Playing her guitar, her feet dancing, body swaying, she sang in a rich alto, first "Sweet Child," then more original songs like "Little Girl I'll Show You the World," "What are You Searching For?" and "Will You Come Home to Your Own Lonely Heart?"

Next up, poet-singer Peter Mayer clambered onstage with a disarming grin telling the crowd it was even colder here than his home in Minnesota and that walking along the Potomac earlier that day, he was startled and captivated hearing river ice scraping.

Once a theology student studying to become a Catholic priest, his first songs were directly spiritual, with titles like "Next Train to Jerusalem," "God is a River" and "All the World is One," which brought the house down, his voice a sonorous tenor. Then



Peter Mayer, who once studied to become a Catholic priest, performed many of his original spiritual songs.



Lea is one of the foremost troubadours on the East Coast, said venue manager Herb Cooper-Levy of Focus Music, a volunteer organization.

came an tune for children called "Dr. Seuss is On The Loose in Your Brain" which had the roomful of adults singing along, and later comic songs like "Drivin' With My Knees" and another about online dating which leads to the girl across the street. In poetry set to music, he went on to sing of the cosmos, of nature, of his love for his

wife Beth, then returning to the spiritual with "Everything was Holy Now."

At evening's end, Lea joined him onstage for a rousing rendition of Pete Seeger's "If I had a Hammer" then after an encore Mayer's tune "Runnin' with the Buffalo."

Making the evening possible were local Focus Music volunteers Peter and Alison Lattu, Don and Jean Heinrichs, Steve and Jeanne Rorke, Caroline McCormac, Julie Harding and sound technician Jay Kohn. Focus Music, staffed by volunteers, supports the

folk music scene in the Washington, D.C. area. The next Focus concert at St. Aidan's is April 11 with David Mallett plus Friction Farm. For more information on these performers and other Focus concerts in the D.C. area, visit FocusMusic.org.

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OLD TOWN \$2,300,000

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McLEAN, VA \$2,200,000

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MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ♦ MARCH 12-18, 2015 ♦ 7

OPINION

Balancing Act: Budgeting for Housing

BY DAVID LEVINE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
GOOD SHEPHERD HOUSING
AND FAMILY SERVICES, INC.

In our work housing families and individuals experiencing homelessness, many of them have never lived in housing of their own. They have lived doubled up with relatives and friends, camped out in broken-down minivans, or checked into motels for overnight stays. But signing a lease with a commitment to a year's worth of monthly rent payments — that's a new or long-ago experience for them. And it's a scary one, too.

That's when we come into their lives to help them out. Our housing locators and case managers work with them to understand the basics of renting a housing property. Without question, the rental lease gives them rights. It bestows on them the new lawful designation of "tenant." But a rental lease also comes with new responsibilities.

The responsibilities are not easy. Paying rent on the first of the month is their highest priority as a tenant. Keeping in line with rental community rules and regulations is equally important. Making sure that they keep their housing in a good condition is another one. Excessive

damage and wear-and-tear of their rental housing will make their security deposits — the one they had struggled for weeks to pull together — vanish into thin air.

We know the hardest part is making that rent payment on the first of each month.

It is a real balancing act. As the sociologist Sudhir Venkatesh once noted about low-income families living in South Chicago who struggled to make rent payments: "This does not mean people fail to plan but ... there are separate temporal horizons, one in the immediate future and the other a longer way off." In other words, these families focus on the expenses to be paid today, not tomorrow or next month.

In its just released poverty study of women and girls in the Washington D.C. metropolitan region, the Washington Area Women's Foundation included information on the average monthly expenses faced by poor families living in our region. Drawing on 2013 U.S. Census Bureau data and other datasets, the author of the study provided measures of economic security for what a family of three without public assistance would need to pay its expenses.

For example, even at \$1,325/month as the average rent in Fairfax County, this monthly

rent is actually not the most costly of the family's household expenses. In fact, at an average of \$1,821/month, the highest monthly expense is for childcare. All told, when all the expenses are added up, a typical family of three would need \$82,572 in annual income in Fairfax County to afford to live comfortably there and cover all its expenses.

The federal poverty line annual income for a family of three is \$19,530. As many families experiencing homelessness are earning just above the poverty line, the amount of income needed to live without worries in Fairfax County is a long way off for them.

Still, even for low-income families and individuals experiencing homelessness, our case managers and housing locators can make a world of difference.

They work to find them very affordable housing within a shrinking pool of this kind of housing.

Once housed, they support them in getting a budget in place — and then we can only hope that nothing upends their budgets.

No medical emergencies. No transmission repairs on their cars used for work. No one-time spikes in their heating costs. It is a balancing act.

COMMENTARY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keep No Stone Dust Pledge

To the Editor:

My thanks go to the Connection Newspapers and Jay Spiegel for his letters to the Editor such as "Avoid Stone Dust Surface", August 2014, for providing the information on the Off Leash Dog Area (OLDA) at the Westgrove Park. Westgrove Park is bounded on the south by Wake Forest Drive and on the west by Fort Hunt Road and Mr. Spiegel has noted in the March 5-11, 2015 edition of the Mount Vernon Gazette that PACK has new leadership. It is important that PACK, the sponsor group for the OLDA, remain steadfast on its historic position of "No Stone Dust" for the Westgrove OLDA. So often new incoming leadership forgets or does not accept the foundation positions that a group is built upon.

Stone dust should never have been chosen for the surfaces of the OLDA parks. Its reasonable cost and very low maintenance make it attractive for such applications as the OLDA. However, stone dust is what its name implies, it is finely ground up stone (silica) which is widely known for its serious hazards (silicosis) to both humans and animals. The OSHA, EPA, and Centers for Disease Control all emphasize the importance of avoiding any environment that contains air-

borne stone dust. The effect of silicosis over a period of time is life ending caused by such diseases as lung cancer, tuberculosis, COPD, and others.

PACK should keep its original "No Stone Dust" pledge. They should also press the Fairfax County Park Authority to add signage to all the OLDAs that warn users of the hazards of stone dust.

Harry Lehman
Mount Vernon

For the Good Of All

To the Editor:

In my opinion and regrettably, most politicians in Richmond or Washington, DC today — in either party — lack the leadership skills and the ability to work with others to solve problems. Most politicians today seem to prefer pointing fingers and assigning blame, instead of working cooperatively to get things done.

Here is the reason I am supporting Dumfries Mayor Gerald "Jerry" Foreman's candidacy for Virginia Senate in the 36th District (parts of Prince William, Fairfax and Stafford counties): For those of you who don't know him, Jerry is a no-nonsense, plain-spoken retired Marine who puts public service before partisan politics. From my personal experience with

Mayor Foreman, he has reached out beyond the town limits to work to solve problems beyond those limits regardless of party affiliation. He just wants to get the job done for the good of all concerned.

Jerry is running as a Republican, but doesn't view Democrats as the enemy. He knows that both parties need to work together if we are going to solve the problems facing our commonwealth. He'll be a terrific senator and I am proud to support him.

Eileen Thrall
Dumfries

Record of Lowering Taxes

To the Editor:

While the people in Dumfries already know about Mayor Foreman's record, I am writing today to share it with a larger audience. That's because the mayor recently announced that he is running for State Senate from the 36th District, which is now an open seat due to incumbent Sen. Toddy Puller's retirement.

We all know that politicians promise to cut our taxes every year, but then taxes go up and up. That's why when there is an elected official out there who has actually cut taxes, they need to be recognized and applauded.

Dumfries Mayor Jerry Foreman

led the charge to lower property tax rates in his town by 52 percent with another reduction slated for the FY16 Budget, while making sure to build up the township surplus in case of emergencies. That's true fiscal conservatism. Foreman was also able to reduce — and in some cases eliminate — costly fees that are particularly hard on homeowners and small businesses.

It's rare that we get an opportunity to send someone to Richmond who actually has a record of lowering taxes. Let's take advantage of it and elect Jerry Foreman to the Senate in November.

Susan Valentine
Alexandria

Write

The Gazette welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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Small Step on Long Road to Ethics Reform

BY ADAM P. EBBIN
STATE SENATOR (D-30)



Virginians deserve to know that their leaders are ethical and honest, both from their actions and the rules that govern those actions. For the second year in a row, the General Assembly has taken a small step in the right direction, but our Commonwealth needs real and substantive change.

Elected office is a sacred trust — and when politicians abuse that trust, they corrode the foundation of our democracy. Unfortunately, the past few years have been extremely corrosive. Former Governor Bob McDonnell faces two years in prison for public corruption. Former Delegate Phil Hamilton is serving a nine-and-a-half-year sentence for bribery and extortion. Over the last two years, federal investigations have become all too common — and while those investigations have not always led to charges, the events that provoked them still leave a bad taste in voters' mouths.

It's little wonder, then, that faith in state government is so low. In a survey taken shortly after the McDonnell conviction, Roanoke College found that 74 percent of Virginians believed the former governor's illegal actions were "fairly typical behavior

for elected officials." Another survey found that almost two-thirds of Virginians deem our political culture to be, at best, only "somewhat honest and ethical."

Virginians have every reason to feel disappointed. This crisis of faith was brought on by a few bad actors, but their choices affect us all. Most legislators have done nothing wrong, but that does not change our responsibility to fix things. That means we must pass meaningful ethics reform.

For two years, the General Assembly has promised to do exactly that — and for two years, we've come up short. Last year's bill made progress by capping certain gifts, significantly tightening disclosure requirements, and establishing a permanent ethics advisory council, but we should have done much more. On the Senate floor, I offered 14 amendments to strengthen the legislation; most of these were rejected, and I left Richmond determined to try again in 2015.

In some ways, 2015 has been a better year. We did make important changes — but in several respects, the 2015 ethics omnibus bill will actually move us backwards. The legislation imposes a flat \$100 cap on the value of gifts that lobbyists can give to officials. That new limit applies not just to politicians, but to members of their families, as well; it also ends a blanket exemption for "intangible" gifts like travel. But while last year's bill capped the aggregate value of gifts, this year's version merely caps the value of any single gift. In that sense, we're actually loosening the requirements and removing a safeguard we passed just 12 months ago.

Similarly, the bill reconstitutes last year's ethics advisory council along new, slightly stronger lines — but it also removes non-legislative "citizen" members who would have brought an outsider's critical eye to the standards set for elected officials.

Overall, the bill is a classic example of "two steps forward, one step back." It does not offer the kind of major reform Virginians expect.

It didn't have to be this way. Had the General Assembly chosen a different path, we could easily have enacted real change. At the start of session, I and other Democrats called for tough new reforms; my bill

SB1289, for instance, would have given us a truly independent ethics commission with real investigative and enforcement powers. Unfortunately, these good ideas did not survive the many legislative edits and rewrites this bill experienced, resulting in a final omnibus bill that was very different than most of the bills that were combined to create it in the first place.

COMMENTARY Still, there is one last hope this year for real progress. Governor McAuliffe has been a strong and consistent advocate for real reform.

The governor could still offer judicious amendments to address the bill's many shortcomings. If he does, I will be urging my colleagues to support those changes when we reconvene in April.

If the job is still not completed when we adjourn, I have every intention of continuing this fight next year. Virginians need to have confidence in their leaders. Politicians need to honor the wishes of those they represent. I plan to keep working on ethics reform until both of those standards are met.

I am active on Twitter @AdamEbbin and Facebook at www.facebook.com/EbbinCampaign. I can also be reached by email at district30@senate.virginia.gov.

It is my continued honor to represent the citizens of the 30th Senate District.

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Legislature Passes Veterans Employment Grant Program

BY TODDY PULLER
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



The 2015 General Assembly session has come to a close and even with all the twists and turns I personally encountered this session it was still productive. First and foremost, I would like to say thank you to my fellow senators — both Democrats

and Republicans — who stepped up to co-patron my legislation this year and assisted me greatly with speaking to the bills in committees and on the floor. Breaking my elbow and hav-

ing the doctor say I could not return to Richmond for the final 27 days of session is not how I envisioned my final session going, but I am grateful for my friends and colleagues in both chambers who guided my legislation through the process. I had seven bills pass out of both chambers this session, and I look forward to Governor McAuliffe signing them this month.

The bills to secure funding for the Veteran Care Centers in Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads (SB675, SB676) passed, and hopefully with the help of our congressional delegation appropriating more funding to the VA, we will be able to start building in a couple years to fill a critical need for our aging veterans.

The House of Delegates included money in the budget for a pilot program based on my bill SB 950. The budget approved by both chambers includes \$500,000 for a Veterans Employment Grant Program to recognize Virginia companies who hire and retain veterans. The grant shall equal \$1,000 per qualifying business for each

veteran who has been hired, and who qualifies under the provisions, up to a maximum grant of \$10,000 per business in the fiscal year. Any business interested in learning more about the grant or V3 should contact Mr. Andrew Schwartz, the executive director, at: Andrew.Schwartz@dvs.virginia.gov.

My bill, SB 1034, banning the manufacture, sale or possession of "palcohol" in Virginia passed both chambers, along with the House version patroned by Del. Lopez. It was supported by the Attorney General and will keep a dangerous product, powdered alcohol, off the shelves. I also worked closely with Sen. Ryan McDougal on SB 1032 to reorganize the ABC Board into an Authority and create a system where people are hired based on experience and merit over patronage. This will create a more streamlined, business-like model, while keeping the ABC system within the state's control. I am still firmly opposed to privatization.

One bill that did not pass, SB 903, would have allowed the Su-

preme Court of Virginia to standardize the process for courts to create a specific docket for veterans who end up in the court system, for the express purpose of giving targeted monitoring, rehabilitation and treatment to veterans before incarceration. The goal is to move these offenders out of the court system and into productive lives in the community. My bill was passed out of the Senate but died in a House subcommittee. I would like to thank Del. Dave Albo who worked closely with myself and Commissioner John Newby to amend the legislation and try and get it passed through the subcommittee. I am disappointed the amended bill did not pass, and hope that they will reconsider next year. It has been an honor to serve the people of the 36th district of Virginia and I hope to finish strong in this, my 24th year. I am not vacating my seat early and my district office will remain open through the end of the year to assist anyone with any issues or problems the have. Constituents should contact my office by email: district36@senate.virginia.gov or by phone: 703-765-1150.

COMMENTARY

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A 2015 Legislative Summary: Part I

The Top 20

BY SCOTT A. SUROVELL
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)



This is an overview of legislative highlights from the 2015 General Assembly session. Last week, I discussed the budget and some of my bills.

Generally speaking, this session was less contentious than the prior five regular sessions in which I have served mainly because the majority caucuses refused to hold hearings on many of the most controversial bills even though many were introduced. Bills restricting birth control, limiting abortion, redefining fetuses as persons, limiting rights based on sexual orientation, marginalizing our newest residents and allowing guns in airports were denied hearings and votes.

Here are some highlights. Governor Terry McAuliffe could amend or veto these bills or parts of them. He must act by March 30. My votes are in parentheses for the bills that I had an opportunity to vote on (Y/N).

#1 – Firearms Expanded

The General Assembly passed legislation to make it easier for convicted stalkers, mentally ill people and convicted felons to obtain concealed weapon permits (CWP's) for use in Virginia (N), to require local sheriffs to process background checks for machine gun purchases (N), to ban local governments from prohibiting loaded shotguns in vehicles for CWP holders (N), and to prohibit law enforcement of most other states from electronically verifying the validity of Virginia CWP's (N).

Legislators rejected my legislation to prohibit

law, and legislation suspending CWP's when holders accumulate child support arrearages. CWP holders currently owe at least \$15 million in back child support.

#2 – Execution Secrecy Rejected

The Senate passed and the House killed legislation to authorize compounded drugs in executions and exempt the entire execution process from the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (N).

#3 – Constitutional Amendments

The legislature passed a constitutional amendment exempting the spouses of slain first responders from real estate taxes (Y), to put Virginia's "right to work" law into the Constitution (N), and to move charter school approval from local school boards to the state (N). The legislature must pass constitutional amendments again next year to be placed on the 2016 ballot for voter approval.

Legislators killed constitutional amendments to allow automatic restoration of voting rights for convicted felons, require nonpartisan redistricting, allow two-term Governors and repeal Virginia's gay marriage ban. The legislature again did not ratification the Equal Rights Amendment.

#4 – Education Reforms

SEE THE TOP 20, PAGE 21

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

HOME SALES

In January 2015, 69 homes sold between \$3,500,000-\$100,000 in the Mount Vernon area.

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code
5814 FIFER DR	2	1	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$285,000	Duplex	0.10	22303
6641 WAKEFIELD DR #502	3	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$270,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		22307
8657 VENOY CT	3	1	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$255,500	Townhouse	0.03	22309
2059 HUNTINGTON AVE #506	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$250,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		22303
6706 WAKEFIELD DR #B2	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$250,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22307
7522C SNOWPEA CT #15	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$245,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22306
7515E SNOWPEA CT #161	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$238,500	Garden 1-4 Floors		22306
6914 WESTHAMPTON DR	2	1	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$210,000	Semi-Detached	0.09	22307
1102 BELLE VIEW BOULEVARD #B2	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$184,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22307
6641 WAKEFIELD DR #512	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$180,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		22307
8505 NOGALES CT #263	3	1	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$176,000	Townhouse		22309
2648 REDCOAT DR #97	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$170,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22303
4362 PEMBROOK VILLAGE DR #68	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$156,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22309
3857 TIBURON PL #A	3	2	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$155,000	Townhouse		22309
3967 EL SONETA PL #10	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$152,900	Garden 1-4 Floors		22309
2604 INDIAN DR #64	2	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$145,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22303
8357K CLAREMONT WOODS DR #K	2	2	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$135,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22309
3917 SONORA PL #C	2	1	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$115,500	Townhouse		22309
8633A BEEKMAN PL #33-A	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$113,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22309
7971 AUDUBON AVE #B1	1	1	0		ALEXANDRIA	\$100,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22306

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CRIME REPORT

The following incidents were reported by the Mount Vernon District Police Station.

ROBBERY, 8400 block of Frye Road, March 4, 7:30 a.m. The victim was exiting his vehicle and was approached by two men. The suspects displayed a knife and took property. The first suspect was described as Hispanic, between 18 and 25 years of age, and wearing a grey hoodie, green jacket and blue jeans. The second suspect was described as Hispanic, between 18 and 25 years of age and wearing a dark-colored hoodie and blue jeans.

BURGLARY, 7900 block of Seven Woods Drive, March 3. A resident reported someone entered the residence and took property. Responding officers located the suspects and arrested them. Three persons were charged with burglary, possession of burglarious tools and possession of a controlled substance.

BURGLARY, 5800 block of Woodlawn Gable Drive, March 2. A resident reported someone entered the residence and took property.

ROBBERY, 5800 block of Woodlawn Gable Drive, March 1, 11:47 p.m. The victim was walking and was approached by two men. The suspects assaulted the victim, took property and fled. The victim was transported to a local hospital with non-life threatening injuries. The suspects were described black, about 5 feet 10 inches tall, muscular build, wearing jeans and black hoodies.

BURGLARY, 6000 block of Rich-

mond Highway, March 1. A resident reported someone entered the residence and took property.

ROBBERY, 5800 block of North Kings Highway, Feb. 27, 2:48 a.m. A man entered a convenience store, displayed a knife to an employee and demanded money. The suspect took cash and fled on foot. There were no injuries. The suspect was described as black, about 5 feet 10 inches to 6 feet tall, thin build, wearing a black mask that covered his face, black jacket, black pants and a red back pack.

LARCENIES

8400 block of Benecia Court, license plate from vehicle.

6200 block of North Kings Highway, beverage from business.

2500 block of Parkers Lane, property from vehicle.

9000 block of Patton Boulevard, wallet from business.

7900 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business.

8200 block of Richmond Highway, beverage from business.

7900 block of Stork Road, jewelry from residence.

6000 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business.

6300 block of Richmond Highway, cash from business.

7700 block of Richmond Highway, wallet from business.

8600 block of Village Way, license plate from vehicle.

7400 block of Mums Drive, electronic devices from vehicle.

6000 block of Richmond Highway,

equipment from vehicle.

3100 block of Cunningham Drive, purse from residence.

7800 block of Richmond Highway, phone from business.

7900 block of Richmond Highway, property from business.

8200 block of Russell Road, wallet from business.

3900 block of Woodhue Place, jewelry from residence.

Chimney Wood Court/South Kings Highway, equipment from vehicle.

7900 block of Grimsley Street, license plates from vehicle.

5900 block of Richmond Highway, license plate and cash from vehicle.

7900 block of Richmond Highway, wallet from business.

1100 block of Woodcliff Drive, jewelry from residence.

3100 block of Collard Street, property from residence.

8300 block of Richmond Highway, phone from business.

6000 block of Richmond Highway, cash from business.

8100 block of Richmond Highway, beverage from business.

8200 block of Russell Road, wallet from business.

5900 block of Mount Eagle Drive, property from residence.

6000 block of Richmond Highway, cash from business.

6000 block of Richmond Highway, equipment from vehicle.

STOLEN VEHICLES
3000 block of Furman Lane, 1998 Ford Explorer.

to assist with filling out the application form and answer questions. No appointment necessary. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta, or call 703-971-6262 (TTY 711).

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 21

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

THURSDAY/MARCH 19

Tax Relief Workshop. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Franconia Governmental Center, 6121 Franconia Road,

Alexandria. Real estate tax relief is available for older adults and people with disabilities who meet certain qualifications; they may be eligible for car tax relief and tax relief for renters. Department of Tax Administration staff will be available

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- Oatmeal
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- Peanut butter
- Jelly

UCM's Food Pantry is located at **7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, VA, 22306**, and accepts food donations Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5:30 pm. • www.ucmagency.com

UCM is thankful for the generous support of the Mount Vernon Gazette.

Mount Vernon Gazette

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ENTERTAINMENT

Celebrating Persian New Year

The Nowruz Festival will be held March 15 at John Carlyle Square Park in Alexandria.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

Following 3,000 years of customs and traditions, the colorful Nowruz Festival — the Persian New Year celebration — will be held Sunday, March 15 at the John Carlyle Square Park near the King Street Metro in Alexandria. For the past three years, the family-oriented festival was held at the Reston Town Center and had 20,000 visitors along Market Street.

Nowruz, which normally falls in early Spring, is when Persian-Americans will join locally to celebrate the new year. There will be 55 vendors offering traditional and exotic foods as well as jewelry, artwork, crafts, and other traditional Persian products. A main stage will be set up that provides entertainment with 60 musicians, dancers, artists, costumed characters, and traditional players.

“The Nowruz Festival is celebrating the Persian New Year but it is also celebrating birth and life and rebirth,” said organizer Shohreh Asemi. “Anybody can come and share the celebration with us and learn about Nowruz, and enjoy entertainment, music and be part of this wonderful atmosphere of love and fun and entertainment.”

The Nowruz Festival is a family-friendly, fun celebration that celebrates life, love and good will. Of all the Persian national festivals, the New Year celebrations are at once the most important and the most colorful.

The venue provides a fun place for people to celebrate with family and friends, to taste Persian food and enjoy traditional and modern Persian entertainment. Among the traditions, is a ceremonial table called the

cloth of seven dishes (each one beginning with the Persian letter Sin). The symbolic dishes consist of Sabzeh or sprouts, usually wheat or lentil, representing rebirth. Another is Samanu or a sweet, creamy pudding. Another is Seer, which is garlic in Persian, which represents medicine.

In addition to attracting people from Virginia, Maryland and the District, this year, organizers hope to attract international guests from other countries that celebrate Nowruz, including Turkey, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan, among others.

This year’s goal is to share the Nowruz Festival with both Persians and non-Persians. The event sends out positive messages, like celebrating earth, spring time, love and peace to the community. Planners want to bring different musicians and dancers from other countries that celebrate Nowruz, as well as new musicians that offer more variety to the festival. They also want to bring different historical and costumed characters from Persia (like Haji Firuz, a traditional herald of Nowruz dressed in a red costume and tambourine) that will interact with the crowd.

The Nowruz Festival will be held Sunday, March 15, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the John Carlyle Square Park, located at 300 John Carlyle Street, Alexandria. For details, contact organizer Shohreh Asemi, at 202-369-1515 or visit www.nowruzfestival.org.

The Nowruz Festival, which celebrates the Persian New Year, will be held Sunday, March 15 at John Carlyle Square Park in Alexandria.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



CALENDAR

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ONGOING

“Bessie’s Blues.” Through March 15 at MetroStage, 1201 North Royal St., Alexandria. “Bessie’s Blues,” features Bernardine Mitchell, Roz White, TC Carson and a cast of actors and musicians who will tell the story of Bessie Smith through a musical odyssey of the blues. William Knowles is music director. Performances are Wednesday-Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 3 and 8 p.m.; and Sunday, 3 and 7 p.m. \$55-60. Visit www.metrostage.org or call 800-494-8497.

“Front and Back.” Through March 15, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. second Thursday of the month

at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery in Studio 18 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center at 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Artists’ imagination plays with items that are different front vs back; right vs left; top vs bottom; inside vs outside; right side up vs up side down; positive space vs negative space. Anything that has two or more sides can be used to show two different visuals. Free admission. See www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com for more.

“Considering Harm.” Through Saturday, March 21 at The Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Artist Pamela Flynn presents an exhibition titled “Considering Harm.” This art project focuses on the issue of gun violence and bringing awareness to our community. Visit www.ourconvergence.org or www.pamelaflynnart.com for more.

“In and of the Land.” Through Sunday, March 29, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and during performances at The Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall &

Arts Center, Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery at the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, 4915 East Campus Drive, Alexandria. “In and of the Land” is a two person exhibition of recent work in paintings by Clive Pates and ceramics by Virginia Rood Pates. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/Gallery for more.

March 15. Through Sunday, March 22 in the Target Gallery at Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. The exhibition will feature 200+ works of original art by local artists, all created on 10" square panels and sold for \$150 each, until the night of the Art Party on March 20, when all the work is discounted to \$100. Visit torpedofactory.org/event/march-15/ for more.

“Four.” Through Sunday, March 29 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at The Associates Gallery, Studio 319, at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. The Torpedo Factory gallery presents “Four,” featuring photographer Julie

Patrick, mixed media artist Kara Hammond, painter Jill Finsen and painting/mixed media artist Barbara Muth. TAG will present a new show each month. Visit torpedofactory.org.

“DREAM ON!” Runs through Sunday, March 29 at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Local area artists use any media to explore and express their dreams in the “DREAM ON!” exhibit at Del Ray Artisans gallery. Using their imaginations, artists interpret their dreams—from weird to wonderful, scary to surreal. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org or call 703-838-4827.

“Reconstructing the Landscape.” Through April 6 at The Art League, Studio 21 in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. “Reconstructing the Landscape” features large-scale abstract paintings by Claudia Cappelle. Visit www.theartleague.org or call 703-683-1780.

Art Show. Through May 3 at Cove, 805 King St., Alexandria. Cove will

partner with ArtSee to open the doors of their Alexandria location for a reception featuring the work of Alexandria artist, Pete McCutchen. The work on display shares McCutchen’s “Geometrics” series. Visit cove.is for more.

“Paws ‘N Claws for Art.” Runs through May 31 at Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, 4101 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. Del Ray Artisans and Animal Welfare League of Alexandria teamed up to present this animal-themed, fundraising exhibit. Both nonprofits receive a percentage of each sale. Also showing, but not for sale, will be UpCycle’s Fur-Vor project community-based student-recycled dog art. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/GWW.

Alexandria Cars & Coffee invites car enthusiasts to meet for coffee at Hollin Hall Shopping Center in front of Roseina’s, 1307 Shenandoah Road. Owners of classic cars, hot rods, exotic cars, motorcycles and more meet to share car stories and drink coffee. Group meets the first Sunday

ENTERTAINMENT

of every month. 8:30-11 a.m.

Fifty Years of Collecting. Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays noon-5 p.m. Fort Ward Museum 4301 West Braddock Road. An anniversary exhibit of objects from the Fort Ward collection. Free. Visit www.fortward.org or call 703-746-4848.

Second Thursday Music.

Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. 7 p.m. Second Thursday of every month. Visit nvfaa.org to view concert calendar and listen to upcoming Second Thursday Music artists.

The Monday Morning Birdwalk has been a weekly event at Huntley Meadows since 1985. It takes place every week, rain or shine (except during electrical storms, strong winds, or icy trails), at 7 a.m. (8 a.m. November through March), is free of charge, requires no reservation, and is open to all. Birders meet in the parking lot at the park's entrance at 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Direct questions to Park staff during normal business hours at 703-768-2525.

Art for Life. Third Thursday of every month. 4:30-7:30 p.m. at Torpedo Factory, 105 N Union St. Hyatt Regency Crystal City has partnered with the National Kidney Foundation for a program highlighting a different artist each month for a year.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Tiny Dancers 2015 Summer Camps.

Each session includes daily instruction in ballet, a snack, fine motor exercise through a theme-related craft and a favorite story with dress-up dance interpretation. The session culminates with a recital and reception for family and friends. Tiny Dancers is a program designed for ages 2-12, featuring a performance

based ballet, tap, jazz and musical theater curriculum. The Alexandria studio is located at 621 S. Washington St., Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-739-0900 or visit www.tinydancers.com for more.

Art League Spring Classes.

Registration is open for the Spring Term of fine art classes at The Art League School. The Spring Term begins the week of April 6, with more than 200 classes and 50 workshops to choose from. Classes are available for ages 5-adult for all skill levels. Browse course catalog and register at www.theartleague.org/school/search_browse.php.

Summer of Smiles.

The Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities' Summer Fun Guide, is now available. Summer camps and activities are available for youth ages 2-17 and include sports, dance, creative arts, computer, chess, enrichment, nature, adventure, Out of School Time (residents only) and classic camps. The Summer Fun Guide is available for download at www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation.

Photography Workshop. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Multiple Exposures Gallery on 105 N. Union St. Photographers and enthusiasts of all skill levels are invited to share work, ideas, and questions at this free workshop held on the last Sunday of each month, except December. No reservations. Call 703-683-2205.

MARCH 11-29

Blossom's Rainbow. Runs through Sunday, March 29. 10:30 a.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Wednesdays-Fridays and Sundays. In the show, a painter's brush sets a young cherry blossom's world into motion. Best for children

ages 2-5 and their families. Arts on the Horizon is a theatre company that produces original work exclusively for children ages 0-6 and their families in Northern Virginia and the DC metro area. \$8, tickets online or at the door on the day of the performance. Box office: 703-967-0437. Visit www.ArtsOnTheHorizon.org.

THURSDAY/MARCH 12

Opening Reception. 6:30-8 p.m. at The Art League, Studio 21 in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. "Reconstructing the Landscape" features large-scale abstract paintings by Claudia Cappelle. Visit www.theartleague.org or call 703-683-1780.

Using Native Plants. 7-9 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. The Potomack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society will host a talk on painting and preserving native American plants as well as medicinal uses. Eileen Malone-Brown is author and illustrator of "American Botanical Paintings: Native Plants of the Mid Atlantic." Free. Call 703-642-5173.

Concert. 8 p.m. at the Lyceum History Museum, 201 S Washington St., Alexandria. The United States Air Force Band-Chamber Concert will perform, featuring an Irish Celebration with Celtic Aire. Free. Call The United States Air Force Band's Concert Line at 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil.

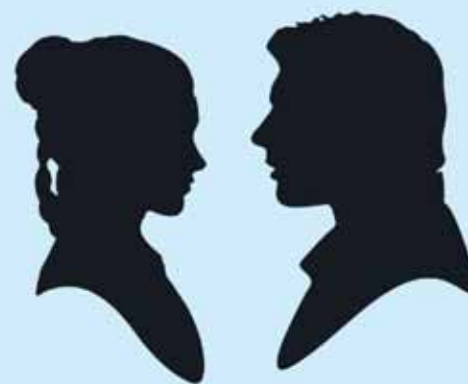
FRIDAY/MARCH 13

Family Fun Night. 6-9 p.m. at Chinquapin Park Recreation Center &

Aldersgate Church Community Theater

Presents

Pride and Prejudice



Directed by Mary Ayala-Bush

Produced by Eddy Roger Parker, Jayn Rife and David McCallum

March 13-29, 2015

Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.

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Thomas Pandolfi, Accompanist

POT POURRI

Sunday, March 15, 7:30 p.m.
Aldersgate United Methodist Church
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Being a selection of favorites to begin our second fifteen years...

Fresh from our hit performance at The Birchmere, we are pleased to return with a program of classic men's chorus and glee club favorites. Included are German romantic songs, two songs by the famous 20th century composer Vincent Persichetti, songs of the sea, songs by Stephen Foster, and a selection of Irish and Irish-American songs. We will also present a solo performance by our world-famous pianist and accompanist, Thomas Pandolfi.

While you have your calendar out, mark the date May 24 at 5:00 p.m. for our annual Memorial Day Celebration at Saint Luke Catholic Church in McLean.

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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

MARCH

3/25/2015 ..Spring Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment
FCPS Spring Break 3/30-4/3

APRIL

4/1/2015.....Wellbeing – Senior Living Pullout
Easter Sunday is April 5

4/8/2015.....HomeLifeStyle

4/15/2015.....A+ Camps & Schools

4/22/2015.....Real Estate Pullout – New Homes

4/29/2015.....A+ Camps & Schools Pullout

4/29/2015Mother's Day Celebrations, Dining & Gifts I

MAY

5/6/2015.....McLean Day Pullout

5/6/2015.....Mother's Day Dining & Gifts II

5/6/2015.....Wellbeing

Mother's Day is May 10

5/13/2015.....HomeLifeStyle

5/20/2015.....A+ Camps & Schools, Proms, Summer Planning

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- Potomac Almanac
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- Vienna/Oakton Connection

ENTERTAINMENT

Aquatics Facility, 3210 King St. Bring the whole family to Family Fun Nights for swimming and fun for all ages on Friday evenings. Pool games include beach ball relays, water basketball, diving for prizes and fun on the 'Aqua Challenge' floating obstacle course. Participate in swimming skill assessments for youth, learn pool safety tips and more. Admission, \$4 per person. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/c/10280.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 13-14

“Legally Blonde: The Musical.”

7:30 p.m. at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, Chapel/Performing Arts Center, 1000 St. Stephen's Road, Alexandria. When sorority queen Elle is dumped by her boyfriend, she earns acceptance to Harvard Law School and follows him there to win him back. Once there, she discovers she has more legal savvy than she ever imagined, and she can use her newfound legal knowledge to help others. \$5. Visit www.sssas.org/arts or call 703-212-2950 for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 13-15

“Bye Bye Birdie.” Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m. at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 2709 Popkins Lane, Alexandria. Rock and roll heart throb Conrad Birdie comes to Sweet Apple, Ohio, to bestow his #1 fan with a goodbye kiss before entering the Army. \$12. Purchase tickets at www.mvccet.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 14

Fireside Tea. 2-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate. 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Fireside tea with light refreshments as “Martha Washington” shares memories of her and the General's life as a young married couple, during the Revolutionary War, and at Mount Vernon. Tickets are \$20 for youth and \$30 for adults.

Spring Modern Dance Concert. 7 p.m. at BalletNova's Fredgren Studio Theatre, 3443 Carlin Springs Road, Falls Church. The Choreographers Collaboration Project, a modern dance company based in Alexandria, presents their Spring Modern Dance Concert. This concert will feature CCP dancers and CCP's youth dancers performing new work and repertory. \$10 adults, \$5 ages 12-17 and under 12 free. Visit www.ccpdance.org, email cpdance@gmail.com or call 703-683-2070.

Concert. 7 p.m. at Church of St. Clement, 1701 North Quaker Ln. Richmond-based SusanGreenbaum, whose song “Virginia the Home of my Heart” was considered by the Virginia General Assembly to be the state song, will perform alongside Wilmington (DE)-based John Flynn. \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door. Visit www.focusmusic.org/venue_alexandria.php.

Pajama Party. 7-10 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. A fun-filled evening to celebrate the “DREAM ON” exhibit at Del Ray Artisans; with raffish and prizes. Free to those who wear pajamas; \$5 each for those who don't. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org or call 703-838-4827.

Saxophone Concert. 7:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Washington Saxophone Quartet performs music of Bach, Debussy, Duke Ellington and more. \$10-\$20. Call 703-765-4342 or visit www.saintlukeschurch.net.

Concert and Gala. 8 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. In celebration of their 45th season, the Alexandria Choral Society presents Joseph Haydn's “The Creation,” with the Virginia Chamber Orchestra, and featuring Samantha

Anthony, soprano; Brian Thorsett, tenor; and Justin Wilson, baritone. Followed by a gala and silent auction. \$25/adult; \$20/senior and military; \$15/student; free for 13 and younger. \$5 more at the door. Visit www.alexandriachoralsociety.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 15

Buffalo Soldiers History Lesson. 2-3:30 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. The Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club will give a presentation on the history of the Buffalo Soldiers. Free. Call 703-746-1751.

Barbershop Chorus Concert. 3 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. The 40-member Harmony Heritage Singers present a program of traditional, patriotic, and popular songs. Musical fun for all ages. No admission fee. Offering taken for United Community Ministries. Call Ron Brandt, 703-765-4779 or brandtron@verizon.net.

Presidential Salon. 3-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St. “President James Madison” will discuss the peace treaty of Ghent of 1815 in the context of his own time. Tickets are \$15 per person and \$10 for high school/college students. visit <http://shop.alexandriava.gov> or call 703-746-4242.

National Men's Chorus

Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road. The National Men's Chorus will perform a “potpourri” of favorites. Director Thomas Beveridge has chosen romantic songs by Felix Mendelssohn and Franz Schubert, and two original compositions by the American composer, Vincent Persichetti, and more. \$20. Free for students and children. Go to Visit www.nationalmenschorus.org or call 202-244-7191 for tickets.

MONDAY/MARCH 16

Celtic Tradition Lecture. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Learn about how Celtic traditions have penetrated American culture. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

TUESDAY/MARCH 17

“MAPS.” Through April 13, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Studio 18 at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. The artists' imagination plays with physical features such as cities, roads, rivers, mountains, geographical borders, etc. that are represented by diagramming on maps of land and sea. Whether for self or gifts, jewelry, sculpture, clothing, and wall pieces are some of the items that will be exhibited. Free admission. Visit www.Potomacfiberarts-gallery.com or call 703-548-0935.

Museum Lesson. 12:45 p.m. at Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred St. Learn how museums store, care for and treat an object in order to preserve it for generations to come. Call 703-746-4242 or visit shop.alexandriava.gov for more.

History and Genealogy. 1-3 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Learn about military, land, and Congressional records related to the War of 1812 in the National Archives. Jonathan Webb Deiss presents a talk entitled “The War of 1812, Bounty Land, and Your Ancestors.” The Mount Vernon Genealogical Society sponsors this free event. Call 703-768-4101 or visit www.mvgenealogy.org.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 18

Author Event. 9:30-11 a.m. at Hollin

Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. The Alexandria/Mount Vernon Antiques Club has scheduled local author Michael Lee Pope, who will be talking about his latest book, “Wicked Northern Virginia.” He will bring copies of his books for purchase. Free, public invited. Call 703-360-4979 or email annconnell@verizon.net for more.

THURSDAY/MARCH 19

“A Breath of Spring.” 6-8 p.m. at Artfully Chocolates, 506 John Carlyle Drive, Alexandria. Art Exhibit and reception featuring the art of Alexandria artists Eric Nelson and Nancy Ziegler with complimentary appetizers and chocolates and wines available for purchase. Door prizes for the first 50 guests. Free, open to the public. Call 703-346-8699 or email lindsay.hutter17@gmail.com.

Living Legends. 6 p.m. at Patent and Trademark Office Madison Building, 600 Dulany St. Attend an exhibition of “Living Legends of Alexandria,” an ongoing photo-documentary project about the city. Tickets are \$45 through March 12; \$50 through March 17; \$55 at the door. Visit www.alexandrialegends.com.

Concert. 8 p.m. at the Lyceum History Museum, 201 S Washington St., Alexandria. The United States Air Force Band-Brass Quintet presents a concert of music for Brass Quintet. Free. Call The United States Air Force Band's Concert Line at 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil.

FRIDAY/MARCH 20

Opening Reception. 6:30-9 p.m. at Principle Gallery, 208 King St. Join tonalist painter Kevin Fitzgerald for the opening reception of his annual solo exhibit. Free. Visit www.principlegallery.com.

Washington's Irish. 7-9 p.m. at in the Robert H. and Clarice Smith Auditorium, Mount Vernon Estate, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. In honor of St. Patrick's Day, George Washington's Mount Vernon invites guests to explore the history related to the Irish during the Revolutionary War with a performance by Derek Warfield and The Young Wolfe Tones. A reception featuring Irish food will take place in the Vaughn Lobby following this performance and cultural music discussion. \$75 per person. Visit mountvernon.org/irish for tickets.

March150 Art Party. 7-11 p.m. in the Target Gallery at Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Target Gallery is raising money for special exhibitions and outreach programming with the 5th Annual Exhibition Fundraiser, March150. \$15 advance, \$20 at the door. The exhibition will feature 200+ works of original art by local artists, all created on 10" square panels and sold for \$150 each, until the night of the Art Party on March 20, when all the work is discounted to \$100. Visit torpedofactory.org/event/march-150/ for more.

The Oak Ridge Boys. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Tickets \$59.50. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

Swing Dancing. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Rd. Local band leader Owen Hammett will direct the Mount Vernon Swing Band. Tickets are \$4 at the door. Call 703-765-4573.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 20-22

“Bye Bye Birdie.” Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m. at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 2709 Popkins Lane, Alexandria. Rock and roll heart throb Conrad Birdie comes to Sweet Apple, Ohio, to

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ENTERTAINMENT

bestow his #1 fan with a goodbye kiss before entering the Army. \$12. Purchase tickets at www.mvcc.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 21

Firehouse Museum Tour. 11 a.m.-noon at Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S Alfred St. Families are invited for an in depth tour of the Friendship firehouse. Attendees will also learn about firehouse procedures and equipment. \$5 for adults, \$4 ages 10-17. See www.friendshipfirehouse.net.

Studio Recital. 3-4 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Andrew Wilson Trumpet Studio Recital: Andrew Wilson and students (trumpet) and Karin Firsov (piano), perform works by Scarlatti, Sousa, Sachse, Mouret, and Barker. Free. Call 202-258-0822.

Country-Western Dance. 6:30 p.m. at Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss St., Alexandria. Lesson, 6:30 p.m.; dancing, 7-9:30 p.m. A DJ provides music. Couples and singles welcome. Admission for NVCWA members \$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. Visit www.nvcwa.org or call 703-860-4941.

Tom Rush. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. Folk singer Tom Rush will perform. Tickets are \$39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

SUNDAY/MARCH 22

Wonders of Science. 1-4 p.m. at The Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 South Fairfax St.,

Old Town, Alexandria. The Apothecary Museum hosts a day of 18th-century natural and medical science exploration and demonstrations. Discover curious objects, from poison bottles to dragon's blood, and find out how they were used – and if they worked. This hour-long program includes a tour of the museum, with new groups beginning every 30 minutes. Recommended for 3rd grade and older. \$6, children and adults. Reservations recommended, space is limited. Visit www.apothecarymuseum.org or call 703-746-3852.

Book Talk. 2 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Join Garrett Peck and Portner's Brewhouse for a beer-and-book double header to celebrate Garrett's sixth book, "Walt Whitman in Washington, D.C.: The Civil War and America's Great Poet." After the book talk, Peck will lead a short walking tour of the historic Andrew Wales Brewery sites in Old Town. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

Future Visions: Dystopia vs. Utopia. 2-4 p.m. at the Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Will the future will look more like The Hunger Games or Star Trek? Join in to celebrate all of the books and movies that show the range of possible futures. Trivia, crafts, music, prizes, and more. Costumes encouraged. Ages 9 and up. Call 703-746-1751 for more.

Winter Warmer Tea with Rebecca Ramsay Reese. 3-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Restaurant, 138 North Royal St., Alexandria. Sip a special blend of tea from Gadsby's Tavern Museum, "take" a cup of American Heritage Chocolate, and eat period-inspired delicacies, both

sweet and savory, with your 21st-century friends. A historic guest who will be visit during each tea. \$35 per person all inclusive. Reservations are required. To make reservations and purchase tickets, call 703-746-4242 or visit shop.alexandriava.gov. Ticket also includes a tour at 2:15 or 2:45 prior to the tea.

MONDAY/MARCH 23

Ballroom Dance Class. Beginning class 7-7:45 p.m., advanced class 7:45-8:30 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Gary Stephens teaches the Fox Trot, Waltz, Tango, Swing, Salsa, Meringue, Rumba, Cha-Cha and Samba. Admission is \$15. Email garystephans@me.com or call 703-505-5998.

TUESDAY/MARCH 24-MAY 31

"Intricacies" Exhibit. Various Times at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Ln. Artist-Photographer Nina Tisara unveils her "Intricacies" exhibit, a collection of mosaics. Visit www.ourconvergence.org.

THURSDAY/MARCH 26

SWAN Day. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Poet Shelly Bell will host an evening of poetry, dance, music and the visual arts by women artists. Tickets are \$15. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

Air Force Band Concert. 8 p.m. at Lyceum History Museum, 201 S Washington St. The United States Air Force Band-Woodwind Quintet and Chamber Trio offer a public concert. Free. Visit www.usafband.af.mil.

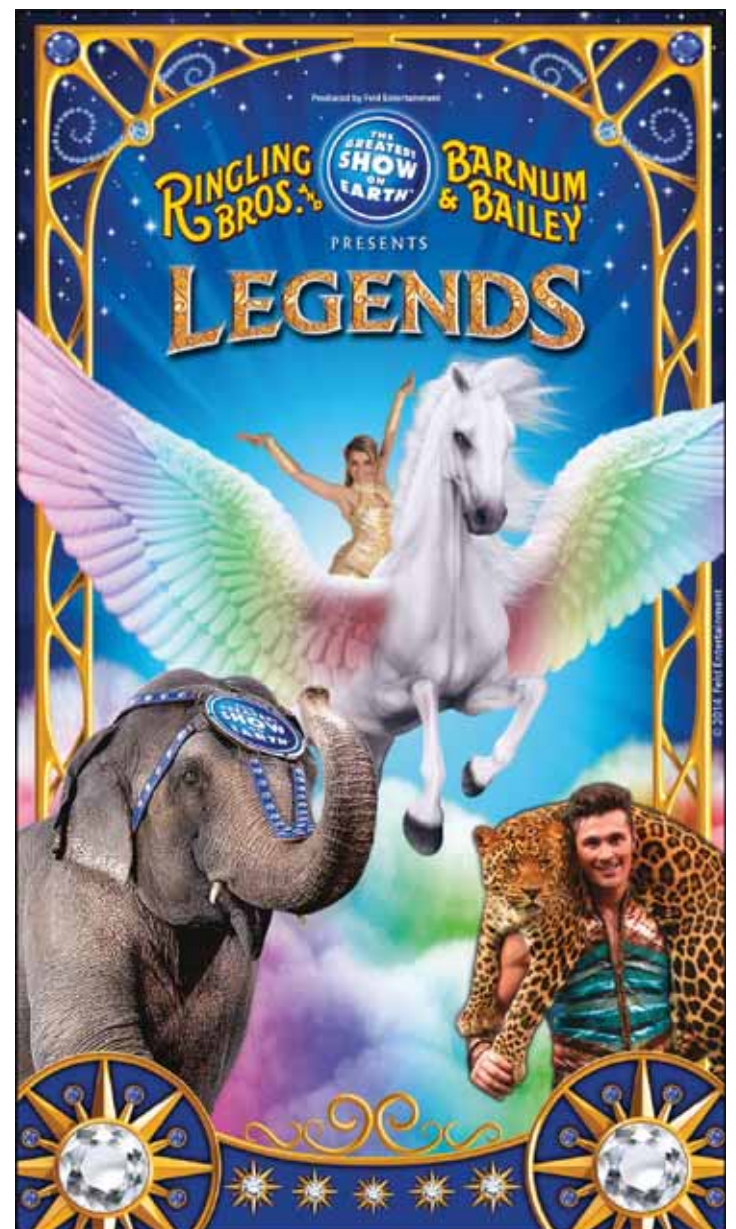
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 (en Español); 6:30 pm
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GAYLORD NATIONAL RESORT



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFF MCKAY

From left: Ed Batten, Fairfax County Park Authority Board of Directors; David Lawlor with Fairfax County Park Authority; Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee); Kevin Munroe, Huntley Meadows Park manager, Catherine Ledec, chairwoman of the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park; Michelle Roberts, Virginia Department of Transportation contractor; Jane Rosenbaum, senior transportation planner with Fairfax County Department of Transportation; Bill McGeehan of Alexandria; Charles Smith of Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services; Cynthia McNeal with the Fairfax County Park Authority and Tom O'Brien, Shirley Construction manager cut the ribbon marking the completion of the Telegraph Road widening project.



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee), left, talks with Bill McGeehan of Alexandria (right) and Fairfax County Park Authority board member Ed Batten about the benefits of widening Telegraph Road.

Celebrating Completed Widening of Telegraph Road

FROM PAGE 1

to four lanes from South Van Dorn Street to South Kings Highway, adding turn lanes at South Van Dorn Street and South Kings Highway and adding U-turn lanes for residential access on the south side of Telegraph Road.

In concert with the transportation improvements, the project also upgraded some of the Huntley Meadows Park infrastruc-

ture, including a new trail, sidewalk and three-arched bridge that replaced an outdated culvert.

"This is our crown jewel behind us," McKay gestured to the park, "and the project only works if it works with the Park Authority."

McKay made a point of explaining the effort was funded by Fairfax County, not the state of Virginia, with money secured sev-

eral years ago. "It was either the county, or live without the improvement," he said. The Park Authority and state Department of Transportation were involved, however, in executing the project.

Catherine Ledec, chairwoman of the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park, praised the new infrastructure, including improved water runoff management, that was part of the transportation project. "Speaking on

behalf of our wildlife, thank you for protecting our home."

Alexandria resident Bill McGeehan stopped by the ribbon-cutting and also expressed his excitement and gratitude over the project's completion.

Any time of day, you might have to wait for a couple of lights," said McGeehan, who lives nearby Huntley Meadows Park. "At 4 p.m., it could be backed up a mile."

Bohn Applies His First-Hand Experience in the White House

FROM PAGE 6

Bohn said it is important for aspiring writers to remember that he didn't begin his writing career with an award-winning book. It has taken him years to get where he is now, and he has enjoyed every step of the process.

"My friend was a White House Correspondent, and he said I should write for local papers," Bohn said. "That's when I went to The Gazette, where another friend of mine, Marlene Miller, was the editor. My first article led to a series of about 20 articles. I interviewed people, did education profiles, and every time I finished a story, I wanted to do it again. I always wanted to do more."

Bohn's love of writing and the feedback his articles yielded led to his first book idea. He sent two sample chapters to a publisher, and soon, his first book was underway, "Nerve Center, Inside the White House Situation Room," in 2003. This was one of many times Bohn was able to draw upon his insider knowledge of the White House.

"I came up with a scheme and it was very successful," Bohn said. "I was able to interview a lot of people because of the position I once had."

Sports and political histories, as well more articles for national newspapers followed. Soon after his first book, his publisher was asking for Bohn for his next idea.

"So I wrote a book about terrorism and the hijacking [of the Italian cruise ship] Achille Lauro in 1985," Bohn said. "I had been stationed at the White House when it happened, so I had a lot of insight."

The next two books that followed were sports related. His 2007 "Money Golf, 600 Years of Bettin' on Birdies," was named one of the best seven golf books by Golf Digest that year. The idea for this one was born from a conversation Bohn had with a few buddies over a few beers at his golf club.

Bohn is living proof that the age old advice, "write what you know," works. He has more words of wisdom for budding writers, as well.

"Read the type of things you want to write," he said. "If you want to write novels, then read novels."

Secondly, he said, before you start dreaming of your name on a book cover, you should seek out instruction that is available. Training that he sought in his early years of writing continues to pay off.

"Take advantage of other peoples' knowledge," he said. "The best thing I ever did



Michael K. Bohn with his wife Elin, sons Erik (left) and Carter, and President Reagan.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

gram, it is important to respect your craft.

"You don't have to go to grad school, but if you are serious about a writing or journalism career, then learn how to do it," Bohn said.

Lastly, he emphasized, start small.

"Start writing for your local newspaper," he said. "Write clippings. Don't start with a book. And, do not write a book before you sell it, because you may be wasting your time. You have to understand what sells and what readers want to buy."

Bohn's success is also evidence that it is never too late to realize a dream of becoming a writer. He not only served in the military for 20

years, but also had a civilian career as a defense contractor before seeing his first byline. "After leaving the service, I worked for Booz Allen as a defense contractor and then started my own residential remodeling company," Bohn said. "I gave myself time to learn to write. I wrote simultaneously with

out thousands of dollars on a graduate pro-

years, but also had a civilian career as a defense contractor before seeing his first byline.

"After leaving the service, I worked for Booz Allen as a defense contractor and then started my own residential remodeling company," Bohn said. "I gave myself time to learn to write. I wrote simultaneously with

SEE MOUNT VERNON, PAGE 19



Jack Dobbyn, Mount Vernon resident and candidate for Mount Vernon District supervisor, promises, if elected, to “make sure police are accountable to us.”



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

Greg Paspatis of Alexandria (standing, right) speaks at the March 9 meeting of the Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability. Seated, from left, are Anita and Salvatore Culosi, parents of Dr Salvatore “Sal” Culosi, Jr, who was killed by a Fairfax County Police officer Jan. 24, 2006 outside his Fair Oaks townhouse.

Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability Adds Leaders

FROM PAGE 1

applied to become a member of Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova’s recently announced commission for reviewing police policies. He has yet to hear back.

“I’m interested in the subject matter of this group,” Salvatore Culosi said about the Citizens Coalition. “It’s brought back a lot of memories.”

Beltrante was invited, and accepted a position on Bulova’s commission. Though it isn’t the citizen’s complaint police oversight board he and the coalition envision, “It’s a step in the right direction,” he said.

“To me there’s a big question as to whether it’s going to be effective and serve communities to have complete oversight of the police.”

Beltrante cited an overabundance of law enforcement backgrounds on Bulova’s commission, expecting that would “create some problems when subjects pertaining to the law enforcement community are brought to the floor.”

Though the mostly full meeting room at the library was the best-attended coalition meeting to date, according to Beltrante, Evans said one of her short-term goals is



Nick Beltrante (left), executive director of the Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability, introduces Mike Curtis of Manassas as the organization’s new vice president.

engaging with much more of the community around the county through social media, particularly in an election year for county supervisors.

“We need to remind them they work for us,” said Evans, “and remind citizens this is the status quo.”

Mike Curtis of Manassas was voted in unanimously as the group’s new vice presi-

dent. A founder of the Northern Virginia Cop Block organization and Justice for John Geer Facebook group, Curtis echoed Evans’ calls for reaching out further via the internet. “How can we correct this? How can we restore the trust?” he said. “The county is taking a look at what we’re saying and doing. Our next steps are getting more people involved in the community.”

Curtis announced he had already met with Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield) and has meetings scheduled with supervisors Jeff McKay (D-Lee) and John Cook (R-Braddock).

Though no current supervisors attended the meeting, Mount Vernon District hopeful Jack Dobbyn was there. When asked by Beltrante to comment on the lack of a public safety committee meeting over the last two years — a committee chaired by current supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon) — Dobbyn deferred answering directly, explaining he had been appointed by Hyland to serve on the county’s human services council.

However in his remarks, Dobbyn was critical of how the Geer case and others have been handled.

“It’s rather embarrassing for our county,” he said. “We’re better than this. We’ve failed the Culosi family, the Masters family, the Geer Family. I feel justice has not been served in these cases.”

If elected, Dobbyn said, he would “fight tooth and nail for accountability.”

For more information on the Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability, visit sites.google.com/a/virginiaccpa.org.

Mount Vernon Author Pens ‘Presidents in Crisis’

FROM PAGE 18

working. I closed my company in 2001 when I got a contract for my first book. I have been writing full time since then.”

“Presidents in Crisis” marked Bohn’s first time producing with a New York agent and publisher. His agent, Julia Lord, said she was thrilled to work with him and that everyone on her team is proud of the result.

“It is a big period of time and was a huge amount of analysis,” Lord said. “People in government should be reading this because they can learn a lot

about decision making. This is why he is getting such good press already.”

There is no way the comprehensive book could have been an easy subject for anyone to tackle. Still, Bohn successfully connected all the dots, Lord said.

“Mike is thoughtful and receptive, and adjusted his proposal to a slightly more accessible tone before we went out with it,” Lord said. “He’s the consummate professional writer, and we all have truly enjoyed working with him on this.”

In addition to Lord, Bohn has a film and television agent in Los Angeles who is cur-

rently working on selling “Presidents in Crisis” as a TV series.

These days, Bohn spends his time writing features for the Chicago Tribune Wire Service while he promotes “Presidents in Crisis.” He said he has a few other book ideas swimming around his yet, but he hasn’t committed to anything quite yet.

No matter how much success he sees, Bohn said seeing his name in print never gets old.

“It’s very impressive,” he said. “It is a very big deal for to see my byline in the Washington Post, Kansas City Star, and now, Los

Angeles Times. There is no money in this. But at this point in my life, it is perfect because I get to interview my heroes. I can get just about anyone on the phone.” The Texas native crafts his works in his home office or local clubs where he holds memberships. He and his wife, Elin, live in Mount Vernon and raised their children in the area.

He has lived all over the world, but will always have a soft spot for the Capital Region.

“It all started in 1995 with the Mount Vernon Gazette,” Bohn said.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE

The staff from the Virginia Department of Forestry worked all morning slowly burning the meadow at River Farm.

Burning the Meadow

Burn experts from the Virginia Department of Forestry arrived early Feb. 12 to conduct a burn of the Andre Bluemel Meadow at River Farm. Up until 2010, the meadow had been managed by an annual mowing late in the winter.

Without the mowing or burning, the meadow reverts back to woodland. Weather conditions were not optimal, snow flurries were present less than a mile north, the wind speed was very slow, but the crew slowly worked through the quadrants fanning and blowing air on the flame to help burn through

the woody invasive species.

The André Bluemel Meadow is a four-acre area that includes many species of native grasses and wildflowers. Two large black walnut trees (*Juglans nigra*) in the middle of the meadow are believed to date from the time of George Washington's ownership of River Farm. Red foxes, bluebirds, marsh hawks, ospreys, and bald eagles are often sighted in this area, as well as numerous butterflies and other insects. River Farm is located at 7931 East Boulevard Drive in Alexandria and is the headquarters of the American Horticulture Society.

Larsen To Play in National Festival

Erika Larsen, a senior at West Potomac High School, will join other musicians from across the nation as part of Music for All's 2015 Honor Orchestra of America. She is the daughter of Steve and Cheri Larsen. Erika is a member of the Symphonic Winds under the direction of Stephen H. Rice at WPHS and principal flute with the Washington Metropolitan Youth Orchestra under the direction of Dr. Henry Sgrecci. She studies at the studio of Charlotte Day.

Erika plays flute and piccolo and was selected to rehearse and perform in concert as part of the Music for All National Festival, presented by Yamaha, March 11-14 in Indianapolis, Ind.

The Honor Orchestra of America students will first come together, from 22 states representing 51 high schools, on Wednesday, March 11 and will perform in concert Friday and Saturday nights, March 13-14, at Hilbert Circle Theatre in Indianapolis, Ind.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Erika Larsen

The orchestra is performing shared concerts with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra.

Erika began playing at age 10 and has achieved numerous accolades and honors including selection to the VBODA Virginia All State bands for the past three years, Boston University Tanglewood Institute and the U.S. Army All American Bowl Marching Band.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

With UCM Board Chair Gigi Hyland (far right) are several newly elected board directors, including (from left) Claudia Creo, Suzy Coffey (President of The Friends of UCM), Abigail Arms, and Diane Brooks. Not pictured is Kenneth Disselkoen.

UCM Names Officers

United Community Ministries (UCM) elected new officers and five new directors at its annual meeting in December. Officers elected for 2015 are: Christiane Gigi Hyland, Esq., board chair; Charles O'Connor, vice chair; Joseph Conti, treasurer; and Janet Heddesheimer, secretary. Joining the UCM board are: Abigail Arms, Diane Brooks, Suzy Coffey, Claudia Creo, and Kenneth Disselkoen. The new members joined the board as Charles King, 2014 vice chair, retired from service.

Hyland, board chair, has been a board member since December 2012. She is currently executive director at National Credit Union Foundation. Previously she served as a board member of the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), the independent federal regulator for the nation's credit unions. She was NCUA's representative on the board of directors at NeighborWorks America, where she served as chairman during her tenure. Prior to NCUA, Hyland's career spanned 14 years serving the credit union community as an executive, attorney and advocate. She was also a managing partner of the family law firm, Hyland and Hyland.

A graduate of the College of William and Mary with a B.A. in comparative literature, Hyland earned her J.D. from George Mason University School of Law and an Advanced Diploma in International Law from McGeorge School of Law. Hyland and her husband Chris Revere live in the Wessynton neighborhood in Alexandria.

O'Connor, vice chair, has served on the UCM board since March 2011. He recently retired as senior counsel in the Labor and Employment Practice at Morgan Lewis in Washington D.C., focused on labor-management relations, particularly collective bargaining. His experience includes extensive work in the employee benefits area, particularly employee benefits derived out of collective bargaining with particular emphasis on pension and health benefit issues. He has a bachelor's degree from College of

the Holy Cross and a law degree from Boston College. He has been involved with Holy Trinity Church in Washington D.C. and with the Washington Jesuit Academy, and has done pro bono legal representation for the DC Bar.

Conti, treasurer, has served on the UCM board since December 2012. He is a retired senior banking executive, retiring in 1992 as a senior vice president with Bankers Trust Company after a 23 year tenure. In retirement he has served as a financial services consultant primarily to the Polish American Enterprise Fund in Poland, as well as other clients in Poland and Russia. Conti has served as a board member and officer at several organizations in both New York and the greater D.C. metro area. He is a member of the Emeritus Board of the Children's Law Center in Washington D.C. and of the Alumni Board of Doorways for Women and Families in Arlington. A graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University with a B.S. in business management, Conti earned his M.B.A. from the Bernard Baruch College of the City University of New York. Conti and his wife Dorothy live in The Manors at Mount Vernon in Alexandria.

Heddesheimer, secretary, has served on the UCM board since December 2013, when she retired from The George Washington University as counseling professor emerita. During her 40-year tenure, she served in many academic and administrative roles including teaching numerous graduate counseling classes, serving one term as a department chair, and 24 years in dean roles as assistant and associate dean, academic associate dean, senior associate dean and twice acting dean.

She is a licensed professional counselor in the State of Virginia and a national certified counselor. A graduate of Coe College with a B.A. in English, she earned both her M.A. in counseling and guidance and her Ph.D. in counselor education at The Ohio State University. Heddesheimer and her husband Jon live in the Mason Hill neighborhood in Alexandria.

OPINION

The Top 20

FROM PAGE 12

The General Assembly rejected legislation allowing a pre-Labor Day school start (Y); but we passed legislation making it easier to get a waiver from the post-Labor Day school start requirement which could help Fairfax County if the snow persists (Y).

The legislature approved legislation to provide more flexibility to school systems meeting Standards of Learning (SOL) tests (Y), to allow more bake sales (N) and to restrict seclusion and restraint of students (Y).

The legislature repealed the A thru F school grading system (Y) and Governor Bob McDonnell's state takeover of local school system initiative (Y).

The legislature passed bills to allow local school systems to allow home-schooled students to play in public school sports (N) and a bill limiting fees that Virginia colleges can charge to support athletics (Y).

#5 – Transit Funded

We passed legislation to head off the so-called "transit cliff" approaching in three years, thus protecting state funding for transit projects like those on U.S. 1 (Y).

#6 – Utilities Deregulated (Again)

We passed legislation giving investor-owned utilities (e.g., Dominion Power) a five-year waiver on adjustments — up or down — to their rates by regulators (N) and requiring some solar investments. Stock analysts immediately upgraded Dominion to a "buy."

#7 – Hannah Graham and Sexual Assault Legislation

We passed legislation liberalizing proof-of-venue requirements for criminal prosecutions and requiring DNA testing for certain misdemeanors (Y/N). We passed a bill requiring school transcript to indicate if students withdraw from school during rape investigations (Y) and we clarified sexual assault investigation rules (Y).

I will cover #8-20 in my column next week. Please email your feedback and suggestions at atscott@scottsurowell.org. It is an honor to serve as your state delegate.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 13

TUESDAY/MARCH 24

Tax Relief Workshop. 10 a.m.-noon at the Hollin Hall Senior Center, Room 201, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Real estate tax relief is available for older adults and people with disabilities who meet certain qualifications; they may be eligible for car tax relief and tax relief for renters. Department of Tax Administration staff will be available to assist with filling out the application form and answer questions. Registration required. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta, or call 703-765-4573 (TTY 711) for an appointment.

FRIDAY/MARCH 25

Hearing Health Program. 10 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. "Advanced Hearing Health Care" visits Hollin Hall Senior Center with a presentation and discussion of "Fall Risks" — the part and parcel of hearing loss. Free and open to the public. Call 703-765-4573 (TTY 711).

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CITY OF ALEXANDRIA VIRGINIA

TAKE NOTICE

Notice for Proposed Precinct and Polling Place Changes:

Charles Houston Recreation Center (new precinct and polling place) and replacing the St. James Church polling place with the Hermitage.

On March 14, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., the Alexandria City Council will hold a public hearing in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 301 King Street, to consider an ordinance to make two precinct changes effective with the June 9, 2015 Primary Election. The first change would establish Charles Houston Recreation Center (905 Wythe St.) as a new precinct and polling place and the second change would replace the St. James Church (5000 Echols Avenue) polling place with the Hermitage (5000 Fairbanks Ave).

A copy of the full text of the ordinance and a map with the proposed changes is on file with the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, Room 2300, City Hall, 301 King Street. This notice is advertised pursuant to Va. Code Sec. 24-2.306.

For information, please call (703) 746-4550.

Jacqueline M. Henderson

City Clerk and Clerk of Council

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TUESDAY NOON

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Hon'ble Civil Judge Senior Division Pune at Pune
Maharashtra State (Modak Court)

Mr. Ramsinh Khimji Asher - Applicant

Notice is given hereby under the Indian succession Act 1956 section 372 to court about the deceased Shigeko Mori Asher who died on 21/11/2012 to get the succession certificate for Rs. 45,18,398.76

Who have any objection to the application he/she can appear before the court on the date 31/3/2015 at about 11:00 am self or through their counselor.

Date 7/3/2015 By order Superintendent, Civil Court, Pune (Maharashtra State)

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Notice of Public Hearing

The Alexandria Community Services Board is holding a public hearing to receive comment on the needs of Alexandrians with mental illness, intellectual disability or a substance dependency, and on the proposed Plan of Services (Performance Contract), available at www.alexandriava.gov/dchs. The hearing will be Thursday, April 2 at 6:30 p.m. at 720 North Saint Asaph Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. To sign up to speak or to send comments, call 703.746.3523 or email Donielle Marshall. Comments can also be faxed to 703.838.5070.

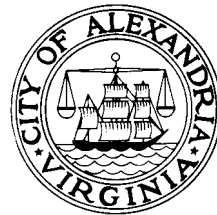
21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

Norfolk, VA



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, March 14, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 2-2-10 (ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTION DISTRICTS AND VOTING PLACES) by changing the St. James Church Election District to the Hermitage Election District and establishing the Charles Houston Election District for the June 9, 2015 primary and thereafter.

As a result of redevelopment, St. James will no longer be available as a polling place, and the Electoral Board has secured permission to return to the Hermitage, which has served as a polling place in the past. A new precinct in the Charles Houston area is critical to accommodate current voters and absorb future growth resulting from new development near the Braddock Metro, and redevelopment of several existing properties.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Title 10 (MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC), Chapter 4 (STOPPING, STANDING AND PARKING) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

The proposed ordinance: (1) repeals the prohibition against displaying a vehicle for purposes of sale within the public right-of-way; and (2) rennumbers the remaining sections.

AN ORDINANCE of the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds in the estimated maximum amount of \$29,000,000; and providing for reimbursement to the City of Alexandria from bond proceeds.

The proposed ordinance authorized the issuance of general obligation bonds for various city and school capital projects in the estimated maximum amount of \$29,000,000.

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL. JACKIE M. HENDERSON, MMC, CITY CLERK

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NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE
Pursuant to the provision of section 4-1-16 of the code of the City of Alexandria, the Alexandria Police Department located at 3600 Wheeler Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304 is now in possession of unclaimed bicycles, mopeds, lawn equipment, money, scooters, and other items. All persons having valid claim to the property should file a claim to the property with reasonable proof of ownership or the items will be sold, destroyed, converted or donated. For a complete listing go to <http://alexandriava.gov/police/> and contact the Police Property Section at (703) 746-6709.

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SPORTS



PHOTOS BY RICHARD MAPLE

The award winners of the West Potomac High School 2014-15 winter sports banquet.

Christopher Cheng (boys' basketball) and Maxine Clifford (girls' swimming) were recognized as scholar athletes for the 2014-15 winter sports season during the West Potomac High School winter sports banquet.



SPORTS BRIEFS

Mount Vernon's Stevens Places at Track States

Mount Vernon's Alliyah Stevens placed in three events at the 5A state indoor track meet on Monday and Tuesday in Hampton.

Stevens placed third in the triple jump (37-8 1/2), fourth in the 55-meter hurdles (8.5) and fifth in the long jump (17-7).

Mount Vernon Gymnasts Reed, Bates Compete at States

Mount Vernon gymnasts Talayna Reed and Jada Bates competed at the VHSL individual state meet on March 8 at Patriot High School. Reed finished 20th on vault

In All-Star Game

Senior Ice Hockey Captain, Ryan Scott, represented the Bishop Ireton Cardinals at the 2015 Northern Virginia Scholastic Hockey League (NVSHL) All-Star Game on Feb. 18 at the Ashburn Ice House. He was selected by the league coaches as the sole Cardinal at the game which featured the 46 best high school hockey players from the 21 teams in the league across Northern Virginia. Ryan earned his spot in the game by finishing 3rd overall in league scoring with 21 goals and 19 assists for 40 points in 10 regular season games. Ryan also participated in last year's All-Star game along with then fellow Ireton teammate, Stephen Gerke.

The Bishop Ireton Ice Hockey team finished the season with a 3-7 record but were within one win in their last game of a playoff berth. Ryan also played his travel hockey for the Northern Virginia Ice Dogs, which plays out of the Mt. Vernon Rec center, culminating last season with a Bronze medal at the 2014 USA Hockey National Championships.



Bishop Ireton Ice Hockey captain Ryan Scott.

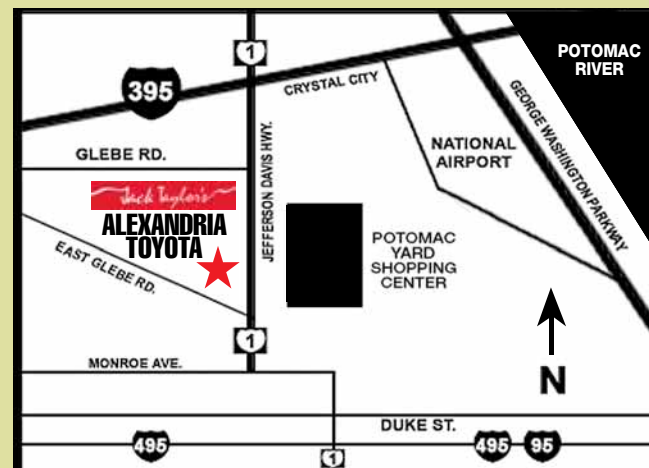
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Mount Vernon Gazette

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His and Hers: Special Spaces

BY JOHN BYRD

On the face of it, adding a two-level structure to a 30-year-old brick house is not especially difficult. Essentially, Vienna homeowners Al Dobson and his wife Joan Davanzo each have a pet project — a spacious first level garage to house sport cars, motorcycles and '60s rock for him; a lovely sunroom comprised of floor-to-ceiling window walls for her.

Knock out the existing screen porch; slightly expand the footprint for the garage; sun room goes on top embracing the rear deck and pool; and, Bingo, it's done.

Yet as anyone who has lived in the Fairfax County for a while knows, no project is without complications, and add to this the problems of a sloping grade, set-back restrictions, strict rules on structures with lots of glass and the owner's desire to preserve all the surrounding trees, and suddenly there are the makings of an intricate engineering challenge.

"County rules on glass in new construction have been in place for over a decade,"

said David Foster, president of Foster Remodeling Solutions, the contractor the couple hired to execute the project.

"Our dogs can even look out the windows," Joan Davanzo said. "The design gives us a really a stunning view in all directions."

For Al Dobson, the favored hang-out now is his "man cave" garage which houses a Corvette, his Italian motorcycle and a sound system that plays choice sounds of the '50s and '60s. A racing enthusiast who participates in time trials at Summit Point, Dobson wanted a room that speaks to his passion for motor sports. Underfoot, an iconic checkerboard pattern set the tone for a private retreat decorated with '60s movie posters and other period memorabilia.

"It's a really peaceful spot to just relax," Dobson said. "That's what this process was always for, so I'm glad we pursued it."



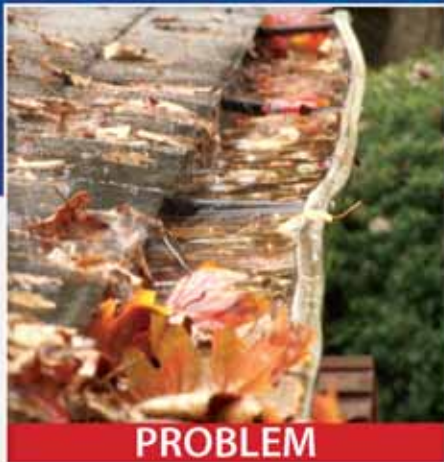
Al Dobson and his new spacious garage to house his sports car, motorcycles and '60s rock memorabilia.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Below, the sun porch emphasizes views. Extra large windows are insulated and wind-resistant.



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Spring Pop for the Real Estate Market?

Agents again optimistic for a strong spring

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

Just like last year, real estate agent Ron Kowalski is optimistic coming out of the winter doldrums. He runs Ron Kowalski Real Estate Group with Keller Williams Capital Properties, covering Lorton, Fairfax Station and Springfield.

"Expectations are again high for the spring market," he said. That's due in part to mortgage interest rates being attractively low, just like last year. "The rates haven't gone up, as we all thought."

Interest rates for a 30-year fixed mortgage, both nationally and in Virginia, weren't quite as low in April 2014 (4.1-4.2 percent) as the year before (3.3 percent), according to the online real estate database Zillow. But with the economy gradually recovering, agents were feeling a surge coming on.

In 2014, "the year started off strong until we got up to about July and August," said Rex Reiley, with RE/MAX Allegiance in the Mount Vernon area, "when things started to taper off a bit."

Agents were also anticipating a raise in rates, but that didn't happen. And now, the national and state interest rates are currently hovering around 3.8 percent for a 30-year fixed mortgage with a credit rating of 740 to 850 according to Zillow.

Though rates have dipped somewhat from a year ago, prices and available inventory have grown.

In the past year, Fairfax County has seen the average selling price of homes rise from \$491,144 to \$526,786 (a 7.3 percent increase) versus the Mid Atlantic Region average increase of 3.2 percent. Over the same period the number of active listings in the county increased from 1,634 to 2,198 (a 34.5 percent increase over last January). (Source: RealEstate Business Intelligence)

With the spring 2015 market preparing to bloom, agents are hopeful the low rates and available inventory will motivate more buyers and sellers to get off the fence and into the arena. Particularly because it's unclear when rates might rise again.

"People don't want to wait," said Pattie Mancini, whose coverage area with Avery-Hess Realtors includes Springfield. She said her office has been hitting sales goals for the first time in over a year. "With prices going up, and interest rates might be going up, this is the perfect storm."

Mancini said she's seeing more "millennials" coming into the market in Springfield, and finding more houses available from older individuals who had been holding out while the market was worse over the last five years.

"The millennials are getting older," she said, "seeing it's not such a bad idea, and



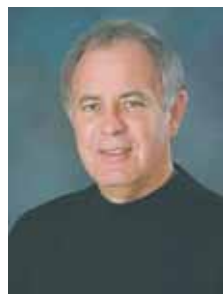
PHOTO COURTESY OF PATTIE MANCINI

5409 Yorkshire St., in the Kings Park area of Springfield, listed at \$535,000.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RON KOWALSKI

"The builder, McShay Communities from Springfield, is building four homes on spec since he's optimistic about the spring market in this price range (\$949,900-\$1.3M)," said Ron Kowalski, of the new McDonald Estates development in Lorton. "We even painted, decorated and staged the model home (pictured, available for \$1.25M), which is rare for a seven-home development." One active listing is 9324 Dachshund Drive, listed at \$949,900.



Rex Reiley with RE/MAX Allegiance.



Ron Kowalski of Keller Williams Capital.



Pat Richter of Residential Preferred.



Pattie Mancini of Avery-Hess Realtors.

seeing more value in a mortgage than rent."

Pat Richter with Residential Preferred Properties in Burke could use more sellers putting up their property. With more people gaining confidence in their economic stability, she said there are more buyers looking to "move up" in her area.

"For years, we haven't had much of a move up market," Richter said. "Now, people are starting to say this townhouse is

too small, this single family home is too small, and want a bigger one."

With the move up market and more buyers looking to move into Burke, "It's a good time to be a buyer," she said. "But that doesn't mean prices have escalated tremendously. It's interesting because assessments all went up. Now starting April 1, we'll see prices go up a little, pricing for the spring and summer market."



PHOTO COURTESY OF REX REILEY

8717 Falkstone Lane in Mt. Vernon Manor, Mount Vernon. "This house went on the market Feb. 25 and a contract was ratified Feb. 28th," said Rex Reiley. "There were multiple offers because this was listed at \$370,000. The interior needed to be remodeled totally and with its low price, it attracted many investors and builders who will renovate it."



PHOTO COURTESY OF REX REILEY

4505 Dolphin Lane, located in Yacht Haven, Mount Vernon, is listed at \$875,000. Its renovations include a two-floor addition on a half-acre lot.

Fairfax County mailed its 2015 real estate assessment notices Feb. 17: 74 percent of residential properties saw an increase.

SEE LOW INTEREST RATES, PAGE 7

Mount Vernon Gazette

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213 South Royal Street



217 Gibbon Street



519 South Lee Street



508 South Fairfax Street



Alexandria Celebrates Virginia Garden Week

Old Town Alexandria was in 1946 the third city in the country to create a historic district to preserve its downtown. Today it has 4,000 buildings with a historic designation, according to the garden tour information.

The Virginia Historic Garden Tour on April 18 is a walking tour in Old Town including five row houses with courtyard gardens in this preserved area, and refreshments at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

In addition to the private properties featured, the tour ticket allows access to The Carlyle House Historic Park, Lee- Fendall House Museum and Garden, George Mason's Gunston Hall and George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens. The tour is hosted by The Garden Club of Alexandria and Hunting Creek Garden Club.

The Virginia Historic Garden Tour is an 8-day event that stretches across the Commonwealth. Each spring visitors are welcomed to over 250 of Virginia's most beautiful gardens, homes and historic landmarks. This event provides the opportunity to see unforgettable gardens at the peak of Virginia's springtime color, as well as beautiful houses sparkling with more than 2,000

flower arrangements created by Garden Club of Virginia members.

Tour proceeds fund the restoration and preservation of Virginia's historic gardens, and provide graduate level research fellowships for building comprehensive and ongoing records of historic gardens and landscapes in the Commonwealth, and support the mission of the Garden Club of Virginia.

For a complete list of tours, see www.vagardenweek.org

All descriptions from Virginia Historic Garden Week.

213 South Royal Street

This Federal-style house was probably built by Thomas Davy, a merchant, around 1834. The house has a more modest history than many of its regal neighbors on Royal, Duke and Prince Streets, though its rooms are rich with the history of the sail makers, coopers, china merchants and other tradesmen listed in the city's 1850 census as residing on the block. By 1850, two separate families lived on the property: Davy, his wife Susan and their daughter Louisa; and James Lugenbille, a physician, his wife Martha and their daughter Emma, as well as Thomas Crook, an unmarried clerk. Well into the 20th century, the house was still

used as a multi-family residence and fell into disrepair. Previous owners undertook major renovations in the 1990s and were able to keep much of the original trim and some of the original hardwood floors. The garden is shaded by a magnificent red oak that was planted soon after the Civil War and is one of the largest trees in the area today. Hydrangeas, camellias, rhododendron, crepe myrtles and wisteria decorate the garden and provide a special place for small children to play. The current owners (the wife is an interior designer) have added artistic and youthful touches to the interior while still maintaining its history.

212 Prince Street, Garden Only.

Behind 212 Prince Street, the house on the left side of the "Double Dwelling" at 212-214 Prince Street, is a lovely garden. The current owners, who have lived at 212 for 12 years, completed an extensive renovation of the rear garden in 2008, adding a goldfish pond, a heated swimming pool with a whirlpool on the side, and enlarging the "pool house" in the back corner of the lot. Originally built as one of the first rental properties in Alexandria, the house was transferred to the daughter of the original builder, William Hartshorne, in 1794. She was married to Mordecai Miller, a prosperous Quaker merchant, who leased the property to a commercial bakery in 1811. When renovating the pool house at the back of the lot, the current owners uncovered a brick-lined cistern under the house, which appears to have been used as the oven for the bakery. The curved edge of the cistern is visible outside the pool house.

214 Prince Street

The lot was first purchased by William Hartshorne in 1774 upon his arrival in Alexandria from Philadelphia. After the Revolu-

tionary War, Hartshorne abandoned his idea to build a personal residence there and instead built an investment property for merchants and renters in 1786. The home (along with 212 Prince Street) is collectively referred to as the "Double Dwelling House" and was a single property until 1916. Originally Hartshorne designed the dwellings for merchants and others who used the first floor as shops or offices and lived with their families above. Original hardwood floors remain throughout the house. Sometime before 1885, the first-floor central stairs were relocated to the back of the existing house beyond the current dining room. There were additional fireplaces added in the 1940s or 1950s. The current owners have remodeled the kitchen and bathrooms, added the backyard lap pool and finished the attic space. In addition, they created an intimate courtyard feeling with copper planters atop the walls and urns on the upper deck for year-round seasonal plantings. Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Sopko

519 South Lee Street

Built around 1800 as a two-story frame house by Alexander Veitch, the home was sold to George Noble Lyles in 1803. The original house had one bedroom and was confined to the footprint of the existing living room, kitchen and dining room areas. The heavy brass lockset on the living room closet is from the original entry door. A rear addition was added by 1921. Additions made in 1942 include the living room fireplace, a kitchen and a screened porch. The current owners completed extensive renovations in 2006. The screened porch was enclosed to become a dining room. Its Palladian arched windows echo the arches of the former porch. A family room was added to the side and the back garden was converted into a walled courtyard. A focal point

of the patio is the unique wall plaque depicting John Tradescant (1608-1662), gardener to King Charles II, who was famous for bringing numerous plant species to England, including many from America. The home enjoys a beautiful vista of the Lee Street Park and Potomac River.

508 South Fairfax Street

This restored carriage house has an interesting history. Its nucleus was built in 1801-07 as a horse stable. By 1852 it had evolved into a handsome brick carriage house of "fair dimension." Remodeled in 1874, the building was owned by a wealthy banker and his wife, a direct descendant of Thomas Jefferson, and was further converted to living quarters in 1848. At the front gates a delightful scene unfolds, from ornamental hornbeams along the left wall to a front pergola draped with clematis. Walk along the front path and into the entrance hall. The dining room is the center of the house and the glass doors bring the lush side garden inside. The living room with its cozy fireplace looks out at the pergola. Beyond the kitchen is the original carriage house with a yellow-hued den and library beyond. Follow brick walkways through gardens filled with spirea, autumn fern, hellebores, peonies and heuchera. A female goddess sculpture from Bali creates a focal point in the midst of ferns. There is a bronze Peter Beard sculpture on oak plinth surrounded by perennial geraniums.

217 Gibbon Street

This historic residence, built in 1790, is purported to be the home of Robert Fulton while he secured a patent for his steamboat. The brick, detached house still has the original dentil moldings on the exterior. Other historic features include the wide-wood floors, interior moldings, window glass, and the original mechanical doorbell, restored by the current owners. Earlier owners added the built-in cabinetry in the living room, which includes antique art and furniture inherited from the owner's English family, mixed with more contemporary furnishings. The French doors at the back of the dining room were

installed in 1902. The doors are said to be from the White House, reclaimed after a renovation under President Theodore Roosevelt. A British potting table converted to a dining table and contemporary compacted-paper art create a bright and inviting dining experience. The renovated kitchen has slate flooring and exposed brick walls. The dining room and kitchen both open onto a brick-walled garden with climbing hydrangea, established crepe myrtles and dogwoods, and plantings of hellebores, azaleas, ferns and daffodils. The garden's rear gate exits on to an original cobblestone alley.



PHOTO BY DONNA MOULTON

The self-drive garden tour in Fairfax Station and Clifton in Fairfax County features four private homes with gardens and two stables in all.

Clifton and Fairfax Station, Tuesday, April 21

Wooded hills, wildlife and elegant equestrian estates describe Clifton-Fairfax Station. The Clifton Historic District, registered as a Virginia Historic Landmark, was a Civil War railroad stop and is filled with shops, memorable restaurants and restored homes. Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, tended to soldiers after the Battle of Second Manassas at St. Mary's Church and the historic Fairfax Station, now a Railroad Museum. Advance Ticket Sales: \$30 www.vagardenweek.org.



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Home Improvements Earn Awards

Four Sun Design remodeling projects named Washington-area “Contractor of the Year” winners.

BY JOHN BYRD

It’s been a good year for Sun Design Remodeling.

In January, the full-service design/build remodeler won four “Contractor of the Year” awards from the Washington, D.C. chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI). Then, in February, an already locally-honored gourmet kitchen was named category best (“kitchen above \$150k”) in the 10-state southeastern region.

Winning projects include: a rear elevation poolside recreation solution; a French Country gourmet kitchen (the southeastern regional winner); an open kitchen plan in a traditional interior style; and a lower-level build-out to designed for use by three generations.

French Country Kitchen Is Local and Regional COTY winner: Residential Kitchen Over \$120,000

For Dr. Rick Layfield and his wife Kelly Layfield, the search for their dream kitchen started shortly after they purchased their 3,700-square-foot, four-bedroom home in Clifton eight years ago.

“The kitchen suite was a primary selling point,” Kelly Layfield said of the 400-square-foot room.

But she found the rear of the house dark and dated. Sightlines to the children’s backyard play areas were not well-aligned. And there was a visually obstructive bulkhead over the primary food preparation zone.

Also, the pentagon-shaped food preparation island and dining counter wasn’t well suited for in-kitchen dining. And the corner breakfast area was cramped — making it hard to access a door to the back porch which used to be a pathway to the family’s outdoor grill.

Fortunately, Kelly Layfield’s first meeting with designer John Benson was productive from the start. He proposed a rectangular food preparation island with a granite surface, parallel with the two corners of the cook’s work zones.

Benson also helped Layfield explore the lighter, more textured hues she had been seeking: marble subway tile wall covering; surfaces in Granite Bianco Antico; white cabinets with glass facings; and an oven backsplash in a white quatrefoil tiling. The coffers, likewise, are delineated in a white and grey duotone.

“This is just the balance I was looking for,” Layfield said. “It feels like home.”



PHOTO BY BRYAN BURRIS

With its private entrance, fully operative kitchenette and dining table for four, the new lower level allows Tina’s mother, Kay, to host bridge parties for friends independent of any other household activities.



PHOTO BY MITRO HOOD

BEST RESIDENTIAL KITCHEN: Sun Design’s winning kitchen solution takes full advantage of a 13’ cathedral ceiling with a two-level window wall. Owner Melynda Britt says the space is much better organized, yet more accessible — perfect for entertaining.

Open Floorplan Defines Casual But Elegant Kitchen Residential Kitchen; \$80k to \$120k; COTY Honorable Mention

Steve and Melynda Britt’s four-bedroom colonial in Vienna offered considerable charms when the couple purchased it 10 years ago.

There was a nicely finished library and living room, a formal dining room and a sizable family room in the back half of the house with a 13-foot cathedral ceiling framing a lovely view of mature landscaping.

For Melynda Britt, the larger goal was a kitchen footprint that offered an efficient work space — integrated with the surrounding great room.

“Since the emphasis was on a more intelligent use of limited square footage,” Sun Design’s Duroske said, “we thought custom-built-ins would help create better coordi-

nated work zones.”

Critiquing the kitchen now, Britt is amazed at how much more effectively the solution works on several fronts: The food preparation island protects the cook’s work triangle, and is positioned for easy service to the family room; the beverage station, an effective space divider, is accessible from both the breakfast area and family room; the coffee bar is situated between doors leading to the dining room and the breakfast room, out of the chef’s way; the kitchen’s mosaic tile flooring has been replaced by a refinished hardwood flooring.

“We can now comfortably entertain 20-25 guests,” Britt said. “Better yet, the space is really warm and comfortable.”

Finished Lower Level Offers Multi-Gen Family Solution COTY Honorable Mention

Eric Park and his wife Tina, both physicians, were already quite busy 10 years ago when they purchased a 3,400-square-foot two-level neo-colonial in Falls Church.

“Our plan all along was to create a family home,” Tina Park said. “We saw the lower level eventually playing a part in our daily lives, but were only using it for storage. It wasn’t until my mother began regularly helping us with the girls that we began looking at the house more closely.”

At first Park’s mother, Kay, would stay in the guest room, but gradually everyone started looking at ways to increase available privacy.

It’s at this point that Sun Design Remodeling enters the story.

“A basement conversion is challenging,” said Sun Design’s Liz Lee-Sint, who guided the Park project from concept to completion, “especially when it’s going to be mainstreamed with the rest of the house.”

For Kay, the top priority was a suite with all the features of independent living, including a private entrance, a comfortable master suite and a fully functional kitchenette with dining for four.

On a separate note, the Parks envisioned a 195-square-foot family fitness center and a children’s play zone with custom built-ins.

Describing the finished décor as “modern Asian contemporary,” Tina Park stressed simple lines, soft tones and open visuals.

“It’s really the nicest place in the house now,” Park said. “And it satisfies so many different needs that it’s become our main gathering place.”

House and grounds reconciliation judged this year’s best Exterior Solution/COTY Grand award winner

As Monte Zaben tells it, the rear elevation to his 8,300-square-foot colonial in Fredericksburg was so sun-exposed it was uncomfortable sitting by the pool he had just installed the year before.

After researching several options, however, he stumbled on Sun Design’s portfolio of indoor-outdoor solutions, and set up a meeting.

Combining an extended radius that steps down to the pool with vaulted entrance way, the structure’s architecture is welcoming.

Tapered craftsman-style piers support a seam metal roof. Inside, three distinct activity zones flow together: an open-air lounge; a cozy poolside vista with a pair of wicker chairs; and an outdoor kitchen equipped with a traditional grill, a power burner and refrigerators. A second level grilling deck is now, likewise, under roof.

Happy with the outcome, Zaben said he enjoys the outdoor kitchen so much he was out grilling one of his specialties this past January. “We make regular use of the outdoor space on just about every seasonable day,” he adds. “It’s very much a part of our lives now.”

John Byrd has been writing about home improvement for 30 years. He can be reached at byrdmatx@gmail.com.

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Luxury Apartments Popping Up

Renters want resort-like amenities and access to transportation.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

After a long, hard day at work, Jordan Coleman comes home to a large apartment with modern amenities, including a 24-hour concierge, ample living space, a state-of-the-art fitness center and a pool. The apartment features high-end appliances and finishes as well as an open, flowing layout and large walk-in closets.

Coleman – a lawyer and Capitol Hill staffer – shares the pricey rent with a friend. The complex is owned by Avalon, which has properties in Arlington, Fairfax, Herndon, Falls Church, Tysons Corner and Vienna, Virginia, as well as Bethesda, Maryland, and Washington.

The demand for high-end apartments in the Washington, D.C., area is high, with rents soaring over the \$7,000 mark. There are some who say the luxurious living spaces and carefree lifestyles are worth the extra money.

“There are two kinds of people who would be inclined to spend that kind of money in the luxury rental market,” said David Freishtat, who teaches in the Masters in Real Estate Development program at the University of Maryland and practices law in Potomac, Md. “First there are fairly successful, young people who buddy up and share an apartment with two or three friends. They can afford to spend 35-40 percent of take home pay in housing. They don’t spend much on food because they don’t have a family to feed.”

“Empty-nesters who’ve sold

their homes and decided to downsize are also inclined to rent high-end apartments. If they bought their house 20-30 years ago and sold it recently, they’re flush with cash,” said Freishtat. “They might be looking to buy a house in Florida or Arizona where there’s no income tax, but for the year and a half until they make that decision they’re going to live in a nice apartment because they’ve always lived in a nice house so they’re adaptable to those kinds of apartments.”

“These buildings ... are in great neighborhoods,” said Coleman. “They’re new construction and the layout is like you’re living in the suburbs, but with the convenience of living in the city. There are kitchens, bathrooms, living spaces are fluid and the closets are ridiculously large.”

One of those neighborhoods is Reston Town Center in Reston, Va., with restaurants and shops and public transportation. A new, luxury apartment building will have 360 apartments with easy access to such a lifestyle.

At The Harrison, where rent runs from just under \$2,000 to as high as \$6,650 a month, residents are offered such amenities as a culinary demonstration kitchen; a private dining room for wine tastings; a gaming area that offers pool, shuffleboard, chess, and card tables, a massage room, a spin studio and a 24-hour gym with state-of-the-art equipment. The pet-friendly property even caters to four-legged friends with a dog park and pet spa.

“People now want to simplify their lives,” said Karen A. Kossow,

Vice President of Marketing, Community Realty Company, Inc. which provides leasing and management services for The Harrison.

Also at Reston Town Center is The Metropolitan, owned by Kettler, a real estate development firm based in McLean, Va., and which manages apartments throughout Northern Virginia. Residents at some of the firm’s properties pay more than \$7,000 a month for features such as 17-foot ceilings, floor-to-ceiling windows, wood flooring and ceramic tile bathrooms.

Kettler is also putting the finishing touches on The Acadia, a 411-unit, high-rise luxury apartment building in the Metropolitan Park section of Arlington, Va., and plans to begin leasing units this spring. In October, the firm will begin construction on m.flats Crystal City. It will be Kettler’s sixth property in the Pentagon-Crystal City neighborhood in Arlington.

At Bent Tree in Centreville, Va., managed by Lincoln Property Company, high-end units include



PHOTO COURTESY OF RENAISSANCE CENTRO

Easy access to public transportation and close proximity to restaurants and shops attract residents to luxury apartments communities like The Harrison at Reston Town Center in Reston.

cathedral ceilings, walk-in closets, lighted tennis courts, racquetball courts, a resort-style swimming pool, a cyber café, a fitness center, bike trails, barbeque and picnic areas and a spacious club

house where people can hang out.

Proximity to transportation is another bonus, said Jeremy Feldman of Bent Tree. “You have the Fairfax Connector and we’re near the Metro.”

Low Interest Rates Give Agents Optimism for Spring

FROM PAGE 3

“Assessments matter because the tax burden is increasing on homeowners in many jurisdictions, particularly Fairfax,” said David Versel, senior researcher with the George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis.

Another burden on homeowners who may be waiting to enter the market is lingering insecurity over the effects of government Sequestration.

“I gear it to federal government spending,” said George Mason professor of finance Gerald Hanweck. “When is that going to bottom out? When it does and they begin to spend again, then we’ll see a pickup.”

Rex Reiley is looking for that to happen soon, hoping that Congress signs off on a new budget and that it eliminates or reduces Sequester cutbacks. “If that happens, think we’ll see a big boom, with everyone confident in their employment again.”

Longer term, Hanweck is encouraged by an “up-surge in technology entrepreneurship” in Northern Virginia, as well as the development of the Inova research campus in Merrifield for attracting pharmaceuticals and biotech. But that impact on the real estate market could take years to notice, he said.

In the short term, he expects house prices in Fairfax County to fall slightly, forecasting a 2 percent drop in the median over the next few months

in existing and new homes, a great opportunity for first-time buyers who qualify for low-interest loans.

“Agents have a right to be optimistic,” said Hanweck. “At same time, they’ll have to work real hard to make the optimism pay off, selling about 97-98 percent of the listing price. That’s going to certainly drop, it’s just a matter of pricing.”

In Lorton, Ron Kowalski has observed steady sales overall in the last month, about one per day for the 22079 zip code as a whole. The “move up” segment of houses priced \$500,000 to \$800,000 has lagged behind the “low end” (under \$500,000) and upper tier (\$1 million and above).

He’s confident that increasing inventory coupled with the interest rates and “lenders loosening standards a little” will continue to help with affordability and drive sales into the spring, especially with first-time buyers.

But, he said more of his clients are researching properties on the internet before they meet with him. And that’s having a mixed effect on whether they decide to make a move or not.

“They’re getting a lot of information,” he said, “but so much is filtered through what they want to look at. There are both sides to the story. People focus on the one that sold super high or low. My issue is a lot of the information is self-directed.”

Kowalski doesn’t mind buyers or sellers coming into the market loaded with their own data; he’s just happy they’re there.

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THE GAZETTE

January, 2015 Top Sales

IN JANUARY 2015, 69 HOMES SOLD
BETWEEN \$3,500,000-\$100,000
IN THE MOUNT VERNON AREA.

**2 8105 Yorktown Drive —
\$912,500**



3 8033 Washington Road — \$900,000



**4 8632
Plymouth
Road —
\$824,500**



**5 916
Dresden
Court —
\$770,000**

Address	BR	FB	HB	...	Postal	City ..	Sold Price	Type	Lot	AC	Postal	Code	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 9380 MOUNT VERNON CIR	5	..	6	.	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$3,500,000	Detached	0.60	.....	22309	MT VERNON ON THE POTOMAC	01/29/15	
2 8105 YORKTOWN DR	5	..	4	.	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$912,500	Detached	0.15	.....	22308	HOLLIN HALL VILLAGE	01/02/15	
3 8033 WASHINGTON RD	5	..	4	.	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$900,000	Detached	0.15	.....	22308	HOLLIN HALL VILLAGE	01/16/15	
4 8632 PLYMOUTH RD	4	..	2	.	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$824,500	Detached	0.56	.....	22308	PLYMOUTH HAVEN	01/14/15	
5 916 DRESDEN CT	4	..	3	.	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$770,000	Detached	0.35	.....	22308	WAYNEWOOD	01/16/15	
6 4209 DANDRIDGE TER	4	..	3	.	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$769,900	Detached	0.32	.....	22309	SOUTHWOOD	01/26/15	
7 7704 LOOKOUT CT	5	..	3	.	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$760,000	Detached	0.47	.....	22306	KIRKSIDE	01/23/15	
8 8809 NORTHERN SPRUCE LN	4	..	3	.	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$685,000	Detached	0.46	.....	22309	WOODMILL ESTATES	01/05/15	
9 4215 DANDRIDGE TER	4	..	2	.	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$650,800	Detached	0.32	.....	22309	SOUTHWOOD	01/29/15	
10 3112 SPRING DR	4	..	3	.	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$649,950	Detached	0.19	22306	VALLEY VIEW	01/28/15	

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